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# Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review*

## Sierra Leone

* The annex is being circulated in the language of submission only.

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## Introduction

1. The Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review, established in accordance with Human Rights Council resolution 5/1, held its twenty-fourth session from 18 to 29 January 2016. The review of Sierra Leone was held at the 15th meeting, on 27 January 2016. The delegation of Sierra Leone was headed by the Attorney General and Minister of Justice, Joseph Fitzgerald Kamara. At its 18th meeting, held on 29 January 2016, the Working Group adopted the report on Sierra Leone.

2. On 12 January 2016, the Human Rights Council selected the following group of rapporteurs (troika) to facilitate the review of Sierra Leone: Kyrgyzstan, Mexico and Togo.

3. In accordance with paragraph 15 of the annex to Human Rights Council resolution 5/1 and paragraph 5 of the annex to Council resolution 16/21, the following documents were issued for the review of Sierra Leone:

(a) A national report submitted/written presentation made in accordance with paragraph 15 (a) (A/HRC/WG.6/24/SLE/1);

(b) A compilation prepared by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) in accordance with paragraph 15 (b) (A/HRC/WG.6/24/SLE/2);

(c) A summary prepared by OHCHR in accordance with paragraph 15 (c) (A/HRC/WG.6/24/SLE/3).

4. A list of questions prepared in advance by Belgium, the Czech Republic, Germany, Liechtenstein, Mexico, the Netherlands, Slovenia, Spain, Switzerland and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland was transmitted to Sierra Leone through the troika. These questions are available on the extranet of the universal periodic review.

# I. Summary of the proceedings of the review process

## A. Presentation by the State under review

5. The Minister stated that Sierra Leone had undertaken a review of its report under the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Right in November 2015 in Banjul. Sierra Leone continued to give the highest consideration to international human rights standards, had signed all nine major international treaties and had ratified five, and had incorporated international humanitarian law into domestic legislation, under the Geneva Conventions Act, 2012. Sierra Leone had also complied with reporting obligations under the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment and had continued engagement with other global treaty bodies and mechanisms. The Government of Sierra Leone had also reported to the Human Rights Council on the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights in 2014, and was committed to completing all outstanding reporting obligations.

6. The country had endured an 11-year civil war, during which the most egregious violations of human rights and international humanitarian law had occurred. The war ended in 2002 and, with the collaboration of the international community, two transitional justice bodies had been created: the Special Court for Sierra Leone and the Truth and Reconciliation Commission. Both institutions demonstrated the resolve of Sierra Leone to

ending impunity at all levels. The Government continued to implement the recommendations of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, including reparations.

7. Since the end of the war, Sierra Leone had conducted five democratic local and national government elections, and democracy continued to take firm root in governance. The recruitment of children in armed conflicts had been eradicated: under current regulations, recruits into the armed forces must be 18 years of age, in compliance with the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

8. Since taking office in 2007, President Koroma had initiated two inclusive and rights-based development programmes: the Agenda for Change and the Agenda for Prosperity. Both programmes fully embraced the political, economic, social and cultural rights guaranteed under the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Implementation had been moving apace until the Ebola virus disease struck the country in early 2014.

9. The Ebola virus disease had wreaked havoc on the people and economy of Sierra Leone. There had been a clear threat to national cohesion and security.

10. As a consequence, in early July 2014, President Koroma had used his constitutional powers to declare a national state of emergency, entailing the curtailment of certain rights and civil liberties, particularly the right to free movement, assembly, social and cultural rights and practices. However, the state of emergency was at all times limited to what was strictly necessary to achieve an early end to the Ebola virus disease. The emergency regulations were progressively relaxed proportionately to the waning of the Ebola virus disease and, at present, President Koroma had given directives for its complete repeal by Parliament.

11. Nevertheless, Sierra Leone continued to enjoy high level of political stability, political participation, expanded opportunities for civil and political rights, empowerment of women and high levels of political and religious tolerance. Growth in gross domestic product and increased investment in infrastructure and social sectors such as health, education and roads had put Sierra Leone on a path to economic development.

12. Sierra Leone was undertaking a review of its constitution, and the Constitutional Review Committee enjoyed the full support of the Government. The constitutional review process had stalled during the Ebola virus disease crisis, yet the Committee resumed its work last year and was scheduled to submit its report in March 2016, with a referendum to be held subsequently. The review would provide significant opportunities for the advancement of human rights and to bring the basic law of Sierra Leone in line with international human rights standards. The Committee was presently considering such matters as the abolition of the death penalty, citizenship, libel laws, press freedom, gender discrimination, equal opportunities and the separation of the office of Attorney General and Minister of Justice.

13. During the period under review, Sierra Leone had undertaken a number of policy initiatives aimed at improving access to justice and human rights, including the following:

- Increased support for and autonomy of the Human Rights Commission, which enjoys an 'A' status accreditation according to the principles relating to the status of national institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights (the Paris Principles)
- Strengthening of the Office of the Ombudsman and the Anti-Corruption Commission, 90 per cent of the budgetary allocation of which comes from the Government
- Establishment of the Justice Sector Coordination Office, with a mandate to improve strategic coordination for enhanced justice delivery to citizens

- Establishment of the Legal Aid Board, which, within six months of coming into operation, had delivered legal aid services to over 500 citizens, with over 100 persons discharged from remand
- Establishment of the Independent Police Complaints Board to improve accountability and civilian oversight and augment the Complaints Discipline and Internal Investigations Department, which, since its inception, had investigated over 2,000 cases resulting in suspensions, dismissals, warnings, corrective training and rank reduction
- Establishment of family support units in all police stations to improve the capacity of the police to handle domestic and sexual and gender-based violence
- Establishment of a children's commission to enhance the implementation of the Child Rights Act 2007, which further incorporates into domestic legislation the Convention on the Rights of the Child
- Improvement of detention facilities through the Correctional Services Act, 2013, aimed at transforming the prison system from punitive to rehabilitative, including the successful separation of male and female prison populations and relocation of the juvenile prison population
- Implementation of the Local Courts Act, 2011, to meet local justice needs for the wider population, including the recording and monitoring of all court proceedings by the Chief Justice and legal representation
- Improvement of judicial independence through the approval of an new salary scheme to enhance the service conditions of judicial and law officers, with the aim of improving responsiveness, accountability and transparency and, most importantly, dealing with the perennial problems of backlog
- Review of the Criminal Procedure Act, 1965, to improve efficiency, transparency and accountability in the criminal justice system, by introducing alternative forms of sentencing to decongest detention facilities; the Bill was submitted to Parliament late in 2015 for consideration in the current legislative calendar of Parliament, and its enactment is a priority of the Government

14. Furthermore, Sierra Leone introduced the Right to Access Information Act, 2013, and subsequently established the Commission on the Right to Access Information. This is consistent with the commitment of Sierra Leone to uphold freedom of expression by allowing increasing the autonomy of the Independent Media Commission and creating an enabling environment for the growth of the media. At present, there are over 40 newspapers in the country and at least one radio station in every district.

15. Sierra Leone continued to work hard to improve the status and rights of women and children in society. In that regard, Sierra Leone enacted the Sexual Violence Act, 2012, which, together with the promulgation and implementation of the Registration of Customary Marriage and Divorce Act, the Devolution of Estates Act and the Domestic Violence Act, has significantly helped to protect women's rights.

16. The Ministry of Justice had recorded more than 350 cases that had been referred to the courts and family support units in the last quarter of 2011. The Government was aware, in particular, of the challenges in the area of witness and evidence management and cultural impediments, and would continue to work with key development partners to improve the quality of investigations and prosecutions. Furthermore, the Government was poised to increase the number of magistrates and judges. Two female judges had been recently appointed to the Supreme Court, which now comprised 45 per cent women.

17. The free health care initiative for children, under-fives and pregnant and lactating mothers was in its sixth year, and had reduced the rates of child and maternal mortality as well as fatalities from other common diseases, such as malaria, diarrhoea and pneumonia. This was complemented by improved health funding and the recruitment of more than 2,000 health workers since 2013. Consequently, 97 per cent of pregnant women now receive antenatal care.

18. Female genital mutilation is a cultural practice in Sierra Leone. Since the previous review, significant steps had been undertaken to address this concern: the Government had worked closely with traditional leaders in raising awareness on the ills of the practice and had provided alternative sources of income in the form of microfinance. The Government had adopted a policy banning the initiation of girls under the age of 18, based on the human right to freedom of association whereby people are free to associate and partake in cultural activities provided they are competent to make that decision.

19. Moreover, Sierra Leone was pursuing a robust child protection regime, with the establishment of a children's commission that was pursuing, among other things, the elimination of child abuse, corporal punishment and child trafficking. The Government was also implementing a national child welfare policy to bring the protection of children in line with international standards. To ensure the implementation of similar standards in rural areas, child protection departments had been established in all local councils. A child justice strategy was being implemented to separate juveniles from adults in detention centres.

20. Investment in education is critical to empowering citizens to enjoy their rights: the Government had implemented free and compulsory primary education, with increased funding to encourage education of the girl child in junior and senior secondary schools in line with the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Thus, gender parity in school enrolment was increasing rapidly at all levels.

21. Under its education policy, the Government took responsibility in providing school fees and in-kind assistance, such as uniforms and school materials, for girls. The programme had led to a significant number of girls attending junior secondary school. Approximately 160 primary and 30 junior secondary schools had been constructed since 2012. As reported by the School Census Report and the 2013 Country Status Report on Education, gender parity had been achieved at the pre-primary level, and almost achieved at the primary level. Gender parity was increasing rapidly at the junior and secondary school levels, with enrolment at a remarkable rate.

22. The policy of the Government regarding visibly pregnant school girls remained unchanged: it had provided learning centres around the country for visibly pregnant girls to receive special classes and at the same time have access to qualified medical personnel. Furthermore, provisions had been made for these girls to continue their education in normal schools upon giving birth. In addition, a national teenage pregnancy secretariat was implementing a strategy to reduce teenage pregnancy.

23. Sierra Leone had taken major steps for the rights of people with HIV/AIDS, Ebola survivors and people with disabilities. The 2011 HIV/AIDS Commission Act had made it an offence to deny a person access to any employment or educational institution on the grounds of their HIV status, by, inter alia, prohibiting discrimination of any form against people living with HIV/AIDS, including their families and communities.

24. The Government had adopted similar steps to protect from marginalization survivors of the Ebola virus disease and their family members. Under the National Ebola Recovery Plan, the Government provided free education for Ebola orphans and young people, free health care for Ebola survivors, entrepreneurial training for Ebola widows and other welfare packages.

25. The Government had incorporated into domestic legislation the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities by establishing a commission and had made budgetary allocations that would ensure its proper implementation.

## B. Interactive dialogue and responses by the State under review

26. During the interactive dialogue, 80 delegations made statements. Recommendations made during the dialogue are to be found in section II of the present report.

27. Panama acknowledged the social and economic consequences of the Ebola virus disease and the need for the ongoing support of the international community. It applauded the resumption of the constitutional review, in compliance with the pending recommendations of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review, to strengthen the rule of law and promote social justice.

28. The Philippines appreciated that the constitutional review would be conducted in an inclusive and participatory manner and lauded Sierra Leone for the steps taken to curb female genital mutilation. It also commended Sierra Leone for its triumph in combating the Ebola virus disease.

29. Poland noted with appreciation the adoption of the National Referral Protocol on Gender-based Violence and the National Plan of Action on Gender-based Violence. It also appreciated activities on the right to health, including the adoption of the National Strategy for the Reduction of Teenage Pregnancy.

30. Portugal welcomed the delegation of Sierra Leone and thanked it for the presentation of its national report. It particularly welcomed the introduction of a de facto moratorium on the death penalty.

31. The Russian Federation noted the process to revise the constitution, the measures taken to provide free health care for pregnant women, children and adolescents, programmes for the free treatment of malaria, HIV/AIDS and tuberculosis, and the policy to protect families.

32. Senegal acknowledged improvements in the institutional and legislative framework for human rights and encouraged Sierra Leone to pursue this path by implementing all the recommendations of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, which would further solidify national cohesion.

33. Singapore welcomed the efforts of Sierra Leone to strengthen its health-care system, the implementation of the free health care initiative to improve health care for women, and other programmes to combat malaria, tuberculosis and HIV/AIDS. It commended Sierra Leone for its commitment to raising education standards and providing access to education.

34. Slovakia welcomed the resumption of the constitutional review process and encouraged the Government to take into account civil society's views. It was concerned about the high rate of violence against women. It encouraged Sierra Leone to take further steps to address prison overcrowding and the lack of independent monitoring mechanism.

35. Slovenia welcomed the ratification of the International Labour Organization Minimum Age Convention 1973 (No. 138) and Worst Forms of Child Labour Convention, 1999 (No. 182), as per its past recommendation, and the national action plans on women, peace and security and on gender-based violence. It was concerned about deep-rooted patriarchal stereotypes, high rates of domestic/sexual violence, harmful practices and teenage pregnancies.

36. South Africa commended Sierra Leone for its positive developments, including the adoption of the "Agenda for Prosperity" and progress in consolidating peace and enhancing

security countrywide. It encouraged Sierra Leone to continue these efforts, while noting persisting constraints in the Ebola virus disease recovery period.

37. Spain commended Sierra Leone for the major steps in terms of human rights, including the Sexual Offences Act, 2012, and Legal Assistance Act, 2012, and the important role played by Sierra Lone as a member of the Human Rights Council for the period 2011-2013.

38. Swaziland was encouraged by progress in addressing most of the recommendations, including the amendment of the Constitution Act No. 6, and by the advancement of gender equality and the signature/ratification of most of the United Nations human rights treaties, as recommended by the Truth and Reconciliation Commission.

39. Switzerland commended the efforts to abolish the death penalty. It was concerned about the prevalence of female genital mutilation and the widespread use of extended period of remands.

40. Tunisia noted the work of the Constitutional Review Committee and the implementation of the recommendations of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission. It commended the adoption of the National Referral Protocol on Gender-based Violence and the National Plan of Action on Gender-based Violence.

41. Uganda noted the campaign to educate on and raise awareness of HIV/AIDS among the population. It also welcomed the launch of the "Agenda for Prosperity" programme with the aim of building a middle-income country by 2031.

42. Ukraine recognized that the recommendation it had made in the first cycle, namely, to improve reporting to treaty bodies, had been implemented to the extent possible. It expressed hope that the resumed work of the Constitutional Review Committee would result in a prompt revision of the constitution.

43. The United Kingdom encouraged Sierra Leone to complete the constitutional review process by the agreed deadline. It welcomed a draft national strategy on countering the practice of female genital mutilation and encouraged Sierra Leone to implement it.

44. The United States of America commended increased protection for migrant labourers and the establishment of the Independent Police Complaints Board. It was concerned about restriction of freedom of expression, lack of resources to combat trafficking in persons, prolonged pretrial detention and poor prison conditions.

45. Uruguay was pleased with the efforts made concerning maternal mortality, family planning and teenage pregnancies and requested more information in that regard. It welcomed the ratification of the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime (the Palermo Protocol), and of the International Labour Organization Minimum Age Convention, 1973 (No. 138) and Worst Forms of Child Labour Convention, 1999 (No. 182).

46. The Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela highlighted the adoption of the National Gender Strategic Plan, the strengthening of the education system, the gradual increase in the budget assigned to the Education Sector Plan and the Poverty Reduction Strategy of 2012.

47. Zambia noted that the incorporation into domestic legislation of international law still seemed a challenge. It was also concerned about female genital mutilation and asked what measures Sierra Leone was taking to prohibit the practice.

48. Albania commended the adoption of the "Agenda for Prosperity" and congratulated Sierra Leone on taking affirmative action to improve women's participation in public life through the appointment of women in key leadership positions in the country.

49. Algeria congratulated Sierra Leone on strengthening its democratic institutions through the review of the constitution. It appreciated the cooperation of Sierra Leone with treaty bodies. It was also pleased with the improvement of economic, social and cultural rights through the adoption of plans and programmes.

50. Angola welcomed the review of the 1991 constitution and the establishment of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission. It encouraged Sierra Leone to eliminate discriminatory provisions regarding the transmission of nationality.

51. Argentina highlighted progress to eliminate poverty through its prosperity programme. It was particularly interested in the strategies on the rights of women and children, which included the fight against traditional harmful practices.

52. Armenia, while appreciating efforts to combat Ebola, noted the persistent challenges regarding the right to health, particularly for women in rural areas, the low school enrolment rate for girls and sexual abuses. Armenia appreciated that child labour concerns had been mainstreamed into national policies.

53. Australia congratulated Sierra Leone on achieving stable governance and sustained peace. While welcoming steps towards abolishing the death penalty, Australia was concerned that it was still in the law. Australia welcomed ratification of the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa (the Maputo Protocol).

54. Azerbaijan acknowledged the efforts made to develop a normative and institutional human rights framework. It noted with appreciation the adoption in 2012 of the Agenda for Prosperity and commended Sierra Leone on measures taken regarding gender issues and gender-based violence.

55. The delegation of Sierra Leone replied to a number of issues mentioned in the first part of the dialogue. Regarding of length of trials, the Government was enacting the Criminal Procedure Act of 2015 and was recruiting more judges and magistrates. On the overcrowding of prisons, the court committees were considering alternative sentencing. The Government had been able to establish a legal aid board that had been able to address over half a million cases. There was a heightened commitment by the Government to increase budgetary allocation in the health sector. The Government had enacted the Sexual Offences Act and the Gender Act, with a subsequent increase in the number of prosecutions of those found guilty of offences relating to gender-based violence. Its policy on educating the girl child had led to an increase of more than 300 per cent in the past five years in the number of girls attending school. The Constitutional Review Committee would submit its reports to the Office of the Attorney-General Minister of Justice in the near future.

56. Bangladesh acknowledged the success in combating the Ebola virus disease and noted the progress made regarding international human rights obligations. It acknowledged the cooperation of Sierra Leone with treaty bodies and encouraged the international community to continue supporting Sierra Leone.

57. Belgium welcomed ratification of the International Labour Organization Minimum Age Convention, 1973 (No. 138) and Worst Forms of Child Labour Convention, 1999 (No. 182). It was concerned, however, at violations of freedom of expression regarding journalists and human rights defenders. It noted that protection of the rights of women and children should be strengthened.

58. Benin welcomed the reform of the justice system and the measures taken to eliminate female genital mutilation, including related agreements with traditional chiefs. It appreciated the efforts of Sierra Leone regarding maternal mortality.

59. While acknowledging legislative reforms undertaken by Sierra Leone, Botswana remained concerned at the prevalence of female genital mutilation, domestic and sexual violence and the low conviction rate on cases reported. It was also concerned at the lack of independence of the judiciary.

60. Burkina Faso noted that the Ebola virus disease had compromised development initiatives. It welcomed the constitutional review to strengthen the rule of law and exhorted Sierra Leone to intensify its efforts to eliminate female genital mutilation, child labour and early and forced marriage.

61. Burundi congratulated Sierra Leone for its efforts to implement the recommendations from the previous cycle despite challenges related to the Ebola virus disease. It welcomed the establishment of a national human rights commission. It noted legislative and institutional measures undertaken.

62. Cabo Verde acknowledged the challenges related to the Ebola virus disease. It welcomed the constitutional review, the establishment of a national human rights commission, the reform of the judicial system and the national plans on gender equality. It noted that harmful traditional practices should end.

63. Canada commended Sierra Leone for its sponsorship of Human Rights Council resolution 27/31 on the protection of civil society space. It acknowledged the steps taken to implement the strategy entitled "Let girls be girls not mothers". Canada stressed the importance of protecting girls' right to education and privacy rights.

64. Chad welcomed the efforts of Sierra Leone to protect human rights despite the Ebola virus disease epidemic. It appreciated that the preparation of the national report had been participative. Chad encouraged Sierra Leone to submit its overdue reports to treaty bodies.

65. Chile acknowledged the efforts of Sierra Leone to combat the Ebola virus disease. It appreciated the establishment of a national human rights institution, the national strategic plan on gender, the plan on health and social security and the programme on prosperity, among others.

66. China appreciated the strategy of Sierra Leone to reduce poverty. It acknowledged progress in promoting the rights of women, children and persons with disabilities, the right to health and development. China called upon the international community to continue assisting Sierra Leone in its efforts.

67. Colombia appreciated that the Constitutional Review Committee had been considering to incorporate recommendations of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission. It acknowledged efforts to combat the Ebola virus disease and related challenges, and welcomed the adoption of the Law on HIV/AIDS of 2011, which included provisions against discrimination.

68. The Congo acknowledged the efforts of Sierra Leone to implement the recommendations from the previous cycle, despite the Ebola virus disease crisis, and progress regarding its obligations under international instruments. It encouraged legislative reforms in the areas of persons with disabilities, children and the age of marriage.

69. Costa Rica acknowledged strategic plans to improve prison conditions and the judicial system, to fight against female genital mutilation and to reduce teenage pregnancy. It was concerned at allegations of arbitrary detention and excessive use of prison for minor offences, and at the lack of independence of the judiciary.

70. Côte d'Ivoire welcomed the inclusive process to prepare the national report and the attention paid to the recommendations received during the previous cycle. It encouraged Sierra Leone to continue its efforts to guarantee the enjoyment of human rights in its territory.

71. Croatia welcomed the adoption of the free health care initiative for pregnant women, lactating mothers and children. It encouraged Sierra Leone to strengthen its legislative framework to combat torture and ensure adequate legal protection for women against violence.

72. Cuba acknowledged challenges related to the Ebola virus disease and its impact on the promotion and protection of human rights. It noted that significant legislation had been adopted. It urged the international community to support Sierra Leona in its efforts to improve its health system.

73. The Czech Republic appreciated the response of Sierra Leone to the questions it had sent in advance.

74. Denmark noted the acceptance of recommendations made at the first review to ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and that the national report reflected that Sierra Leone was working toward ratification of the Protocol. It requested an elaboration of the status of these efforts.

75. Djibouti appreciated the positive steps taken in the protection of human rights in spite of the Ebola virus disease epidemic. It welcomed institutional and legislative reforms, but expressed concern about high levels of violence against women.

76. Egypt commended efforts made in combating the Ebola virus disease and policies to monitor human trafficking. It also noted the adoption of the national health plan, including the coverage of children under the national health insurance.

77. Ethiopia appreciated the steps taken to implement accepted recommendations from the first review. It noted the constitutional amendments for gender equality, youth development and to address corruption; and the success in combating the Ebola virus disease epidemic.

78. Germany acknowledged the efforts made to improve compliance with international human rights obligations and engagement with related mechanisms, and the strong engagement with the Human Rights Council. Further progress had been hampered because of the Ebola virus disease crisis.

79. Ghana noted the success in combating the Ebola epidemic, which reflects the commitment of Sierra Leone in attaining the highest possible standards of health. It welcomed the implementation of recommendations from the first review and noted that the criminal libel law had yet to be repealed.

80. Honduras paid tribute to Sierra Leone for honouring its commitments under the review process in the aftermath of the Ebola virus disease. It welcomed progress in strengthening democracy through the 2012 elections and noted the "A" status achieved by the national human rights commission.

81. Indonesia welcomed the progress made since the first cycle and noted the commitment to advance the right to education. It encouraged the involvement of civil society as a partner to the Government in protecting human rights.

82. Iraq welcomed efforts made by Sierra Leone to ensure compliance with international human rights treaties despite the challenge, among others, posed by the Ebola virus disease, which constituted a very serious threat to the integrity of the nation.

83. Ireland called for urgent action to implement accepted the recommendations that had yet to be implemented. It regretted that consensual same-sex relations remained criminalized and that laws were being used to detain and prosecute journalists.

84. Israel noted the ongoing review of the constitution, the adoption of new laws, the approval of national plans and the measures taken to combat HIV/AIDS.

85. Jamaica noted the impact of the Ebola virus disease crisis and commended Sierra Leone for its courageous commitment to human rights in the midst of grappling with the disease. The rebuilding task would be a huge effort.

86. Japan expected Sierra Leone to progressively implement its post-Ebola recovery plan. It was concerned by police harassment of human rights defenders and noted the existence of female genital mutilation and domestic violence.

87. The Lao People's Democratic Republic noted the acceptance of a large number of recommendations from the first review and the steps taken to implement them. It commended Sierra Leone for efforts to promote human rights.

88. Lebanon commended the joint efforts on combating the Ebola virus disease taken by Sierra Leone with international cooperation, and positively assessed the engagement of the Government in the constitutional review, in such plans as the Agenda for Prosperity and in the reduction of poverty.

89. Lesotho noted the extent to which the Ebola outbreak had disrupted efforts to enhance human rights and the paucity of resources and called on States to extend their support to Sierra Leone to overcome these challenges.

90. Libya noted the genuine desire of Sierra Leone to cooperate with human rights mechanisms and welcomed the efforts made to ensure follow-up to the recommendations from the previous cycle and the enactment of legislation in this regard.

91. The Government noted the call for increased gender parity and affirmed its commitment to affording women and girls equal opportunity. Regarding female genital mutilation, the Government had increased dialogue with traditional leaders and nationwide consultations on the practice. Alternative sources of income for practitioners had been offered. The delegation clarified that visibly pregnant schoolgirls had not been banned from attending schools: they attended school and took examinations, but in private classes set for their special circumstances. The Government had established a children's commission and child protection departments in every local council in the country. A child justice strategy had also been developed and was taking steps to separate juveniles from adults in detention centres.

92. The Government had enacted the Access to Information Bill and the Independent Media Commission Act. Records showed that, since 2007, no journalist had been convicted and jailed. Sierra Leone had also created an enabling environment for free public speech. The delegation reiterated that the Constitutional Review Committee, among other issues, would address the citizenship issue.

93. Madagascar paid tribute to the determination of the Government in honouring its commitments through the implementation of numerous reforms related to human rights in the legislative, institutional and normative areas.

94. Malaysia noted the legal and constitutional reforms that had been undertaken and efforts to enhance women's empowerment. It recognized the challenges to promote human rights in the aftermath of the Ebola virus disease outbreak.

95. Maldives welcomed the adoption of a number of laws. It encouraged Sierra Leone to address the high rates of child mortality and early and forced marriages as a matter of priority.

96. Mexico was pleased to note the adoption of the Persons with Disabilities Act and the creation of a commission on the issue, that measures had been taken to combat gender violence and the fact that Sierra Leone had voted in favour of the General Assembly resolution on the abolition of the death penalty.

97. Montenegro asked whether the delegation could elaborate on the Government's plans to combat and criminalize the harmful practice of female genital mutilation, bearing in mind its negative impact on women's physical and mental health.

98. Morocco applauded the work of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, particularly its recommendations on women's representation, and welcomed in that regard the provision to establish a quota of 30 per cent. It welcomed the ratification of the Convention against Torture and the signing of the Optional Protocol to that Convention and the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women.

99. Mozambique commended the success in halting the Ebola virus disease and joined those who urged the international community to redouble its multifaceted assistance so as to help the country to get back on its feet in the aftermath of Ebola.

100. Namibia commended Sierra Leone on the implementation of the National Gender Strategic Plan, the National Action Plan on Security Council resolutions 1325 (2000) and 1820 (2008), the National Action Plan on Gender-based Violence and the National Referral Protocol on Gender-based Violence.

101. The Netherlands welcomed the implementation of the Right to Access Information Bill (2013) and the HIV/AIDS Commission Act. It noted that laws criminalizing consensual same-sex relations were still in place.

102. The Niger congratulated Sierra Leone for its efforts to combat the Ebola disease and noted with satisfaction the strengthening of the legislative framework in the field of human rights through the adoption of several laws.

103. Nigeria appreciated the commitment of Sierra Leone to promoting and protecting human rights and commended the enactment of the Persons with Disabilities Act, 2011, the Right to Access to Information Act, 2013 and the Sexual Offences Act, 2012.

104. Oman took note of the national report submitted by Sierra Leone and made recommendations.

105. Pakistan appreciated the efforts of Sierra Leone to implement the recommendations from the previous cycle and the impediments due to the Ebola crisis. It noted measures taken to promote and protect human rights, particularly of women, children and persons with disabilities.

106. Brazil commended the efforts of Sierra Leone in strengthening the independence of its human rights commission and commended the ratification of the Convention against Torture and the signature of its Optional Protocol.

107. France welcomed the measures taken by Sierra Leone since its first review cycle, and appreciated in particular the adoption of the law on legal aid and the law on sexual violence.

108. The Plurinational State of Bolivia appreciated the efforts of Sierra Leone to improve women's health through the initiative of Free Medical Care for pregnant women, nursing

mothers and children under 5, and by stepping up efforts to decentralize the educational process.

109. The Democratic Republic of the Congo congratulated Sierra Leone for its efforts towards implementing the recommendations from the previous cycle and towards achieving the reform of the justice system.

110. The delegation of Sierra Leone thanked all speakers for their words of comfort and courage, extended to their people during the difficult times of the Ebola. On behalf of the Government and people of Sierra Leone, the delegation extended deepest its appreciation.

## II. Conclusions and/or recommendations**

111. **The following recommendations will be examined by Sierra Leone, which will provide its responses in due time, but no later than the thirty-second session of the Human Rights Council, in June 2016:**

111.1 **Sign and ratify the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty, as well as eliminate definitively the death penalty in all cases (Spain);**

111.2 **Ratify the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty (Switzerland) (Belgium) (Montenegro) (France);**

111.3 **Ratify the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty (Benin);**

111.4 **Ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture (Honduras);**

111.5 **Ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (Poland);**

111.6 **Ratify without further delay the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment (Denmark);**

111.7 **Ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatments or Punishments, following its signature in 2003 (Croatia);**

111.8 **Ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and establish a national preventive mechanism accordingly (Czech Republic);**

111.9 **Take the necessary measures to ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture (Chile);**

111.10 **Continue efforts to ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (Morocco);**

111.11 **Ratify the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance and the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture (Tunisia);**

** The conclusions and recommendations have not been edited.

111.12 **Ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman and or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, and the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance (France);**

111.13 **Ratify the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty, and the Convention against Torture, as well as its Optional Protocol (Portugal);**

111.14 **Ratify the Convention against Torture and its Optional Protocol (Lebanon);**

111.15 **Ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture (Djibouti);**

111.16 **Sign and ratify the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty (Djibouti);**

111.17 **Ratify the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, and the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance, and ensure their implementation in the country (Cabo Verde);**

111.18 **Consider the ratification of the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women; the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of their Families; and the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance (Burkina Faso);**

111.19 **Finalize the process of the ratification of the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on a communications procedure (Slovakia);**

111.20 **Ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (Belgium) (Ghana);**

111.21 **Move towards speedy ratification of the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, including an effective programme for their implementation (Chile);**

111.22 **Expedite the process of ratification of the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (Burundi);**

111.23 **Ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, adopt national legislation prohibiting female genital mutilation and implement standards on women's rights in order to ensure that they can enjoy autonomy (Madagascar);**

111.24 **Ratify the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance (Benin);**

111.25 **Ratify the International Convention on the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearances (Montenegro) (Niger);**

111.26 **Ratify the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance (Oman);**

111.27 **Accelerate the process towards the ratification of International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of their Families and the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (Philippines);**

111.28 **Ratify the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (Honduras);**

111.29 **Ratify the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of their Families (Niger);**

111.30 **Expedite the process of ratification of the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (Indonesia);**

111.31 **Ratify the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (Ghana);**

111.32 **Ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (Ghana);**

111.33 **Accede to the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide (Armenia);**

111.34 **Ratify the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide (Benin);**

111.35 **Ratify the International Labour Organization Indigenous and Tribal Peoples Convention, 1989 (No. 169) and Domestic Workers Convention, 2011 (No. 189) (Benin);**

111.36 **Consider ratifying the International Labour Organization Domestic Workers Convention, 2011 (No. 189) (Philippines);**

111.37 **Ratify international instruments as previously recommended and supported in the first universal periodic review, as appropriate (Uruguay);**

111.38 **Step up the ratification procedure of all the international instruments submitted to Parliament (Congo);**

111.39 **Continue efforts in the context of the Constitutional Review Process (South Africa);**

111.40 **Accelerate the Constitutional Review Process (Lesotho);**

111.41 **Expedite the review of the Constitution and make appropriate amendments in order to align the national legislation and policies with regional and international human rights obligations undertaken by the country (Chile);**

111.42 **Speed up the review process of its Constitution and include special considerations regarding equality between men and women (Israel);**

111.43 **Strengthen efforts to make effective the Constitutional Reform already under way (Niger);**

111.44 **Continue to implement the recommendations of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, emphasizing the review and amendment of the constitutional provisions which could discriminate against women, in particular paragraph 4 of article 27 of the Constitution (Colombia);**

111.45 **Ensure the effective implementation of the Domestic Violence Act and the Sexual Offences Act, specially by promoting access to justice (Brazil);**

111.46 **Continue to enact specific legislation to implement the Convention on the Rights of the Child (Pakistan);**

111.47 **Ensure that all legal standards are in conformity with the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and actively fight against the practice of female genital mutilation (France);**

111.48 **Enact legislation to prohibit female genital mutilation and conduct awareness-raising programmes in this regard, particularly for parents, women and girls (Poland);**

111.49 **Domesticate the international human rights law (Zambia);**

111.50 **Allocate more resources and double efforts with the aim to conclude the ongoing legal reforms to harmonize national laws with international human rights standards and obligations (Malaysia);**

111.51 **Strengthen key human rights institutions with a sharp focus on the protection of women and children (Lesotho);**

111.52 **Provide its National Human Rights Commission with adequate funding in order for it to be able to fulfil its role (Portugal);**

111.53 **Ensure the independence of the National Human Rights Commission (Egypt);**

111.54 **Continue to advance the work of the National Commission for Human Rights through, among others, developing a comprehensive human rights national action plan (Indonesia);**

111.55 **Incorporate lessons learned from the Ebola crisis in future policies and actions for human rights promotion and protection, including in the Constitutional Review Process (Jamaica);**

111.56 **To continue to promote and protect the fundamental freedoms and human rights of all its citizens (Nigeria);**

111.57 **Continue the implementation of the National Referral Protocol on Gender-based Violence and the National Plan of Action on Gender-based Violence (2012) all across the country (Azerbaijan);**

111.58 **Take effective measures to further implement the National Action Plan on Gender-based Violence (Lao People's Democratic Republic);**

111.59 **Continue with measures aimed at protecting and respecting civil and political rights (Côte d'Ivoire);**

111.60 **Implement a national strategy against corruption in order to fight against its effects that impair the enjoyment of human rights (Morocco);**

111.61 **Submit the belated national reports to the treaty bodies (Egypt);**

111.62 **Take concreate measures to eliminate discrimination against women and girls in law and in practice, also by accelerating the constitutional review in the area of gender equality (Slovenia);**

111.63 **Ensure gender equality by including it in the Constitution and enact relevant laws, namely, on the empowerment of women and gender equality, and to combat stereotypes that encourage discrimination against women (Egypt);**

**111.64 Pass a law guaranteeing gender equality and take the necessary measures to empower women and society (Oman);**

**111.65 Redouble efforts to implement laws and policies countrywide to promote gender equality (Honduras);**

**111.66 Take measures to enforce laws and policies to promote equality between men and women (Madagascar);**

**111.67 Take temporary special measures to address gender equality and consider reintroducing the gender equality bill to Parliament (Maldives);**

**111.68 Undertake efforts to combat gender inequality by legislating laws that would ensure gender equality and to enable women to participate in governmental legislative positions in the country (Iraq);**

**111.69 Take all necessary measures to ensure that girls are protected against any discrimination and violence in schools, and that pregnant teenagers enjoy equal access to education (Slovenia);**

**111.70 Eliminate effectively discrimination against women and develop a comprehensive policy for gender equality and the elimination of violence against women through awareness-raising campaigns in society and in the public administration (Spain);**

**111.71 Continue taking measures to protect women from traditional practices which hinder full realization of their rights, and continue implementing regulations to end all forms of discrimination against them (Pakistan);**

**111.72 Continue efforts to end discrimination and violence against women by taking all necessary measures to guarantee equal and effective access to justice for women and to ensure access to all levels of education (Djibouti);**

**111.73 Put an end to the measures that exclude young pregnant girls from the educational system (Belgium);**

**111.74 Reverse the policy barring pregnant girls from attending schools and sitting state examinations, and encourage girls to return to school after childbirth (Ireland);**

**111.75 End the practice of prohibiting pregnant girls in Sierra Leone from attending schools and taking exams, as required under article 2 and 28 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child (Canada);**

**111.76 Permit teenage mothers to return to formal education and to sit exams while pregnant and after giving birth, including the use of gradual approaches, such as separate classes or sittings, aimed at breaking cycles of poverty, teenage pregnancy and domestic abuse (Jamaica);**

**111.77 Step up its efforts to combat discrimination against women and prohibit corporal punishment of children in all circumstances (Tunisia);**

**111.78 Continue the efforts to promote parity between men and women (Algeria);**

**111.79 Adopt the bill on gender equality with a view to ensuring gender parity, particularly in the participation to governance and to the nomination of positions within the public sector (Democratic Republic of the Congo);**

**111.80 Decriminalize same-sex conduct between consenting adults and pass legislation to prohibit discrimination based on sexual orientation or gender identity (Canada);**

**111.81 Repeal sections 61 and 62 of the "Offences Against the Persons Act 1861", which criminalize consensual same-sex relations (Netherlands);**

**111.82 Repeal legal provisions penalising sexual relations between consenting adults of the same sex, in order to respect the principles of equality and non-discrimination among all persons (France);**

**111.83 Make the necessary legal amendments in order to eliminate standards that criminalize and stigmatize lesbian, bisexual, gay, transgender and intersex persons (Argentina);**

**111.84 Encourage the adoption of measures to guarantee the human rights of the lesbian, bisexual, gay, transgender and intersex population (Colombia);**

**111.85 Strengthen norms and programmes to combat discrimination and violence based on sexual orientation and gender identity (Chile);**

**111.86 Continue working to destigmatize Ebola and address the disproportionate impact of the crisis on women and health workers (Australia);**

**111.87 Implement measures to ensure the full enjoyment of rights by persons with disabilities, especially regarding inclusive education (Israel);**

**111.88 Take measures to raise awareness in the population with a view to eliminating stigmatization and discrimination suffered by persons with disabilities (Madagascar);**

**111.89 Foster policies and strategies to guarantee the rights of persons with disabilities (Mexico);**

**111.90 Continue to implement laws and regulations for protection and promotion of rights of people with disabilities (Pakistan);**

**111.91 Abolish the death penalty (Djibouti);**

**111.92 Abolish the death penalty in law (Germany);**

**111.93 Abolish officially the death penalty in the country (Portugal);**

**111.94 Take further steps aiming at the abolition of the death penalty (Mozambique);**

**111.95 Redouble efforts to address and abolish the death penalty in the context of the review process of the Constitution (Panama);**

**111.96 Take the opportunity brought by the review process of the Constitution to include in statute the definitive abolition of the death penalty (Switzerland);**

**111.97 Introduce into national legislation the abolition of the death penalty and accede to the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty (Uruguay);**

**111.98 Proceed with the legal abolition of the death penalty and ratify the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty (Australia);**

111.99 **Criminalize explicitly torture in the Criminal Code and bring to justice those accused of practising it (Spain);**

111.100 **Review domestic legislation in order to ensure the effective criminalization of all acts of torture, pursuant to the obligations under the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (Honduras);**

111.101 **Take measures to prevent and prosecute cases of torture and ill-treatment, namely, through the adoption, in its legislation of a definition of torture in compliance with the Convention against Torture and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (Portugal);**

111.102 **Define and criminalize the offence of torture in the national criminal statute (Mexico);**

111.103 **Include in the national penal legislation a clear definition of torture and ensure its strict criminalization (Egypt);**

111.104 **Implement a zero-tolerance policy on sexual and gender-based violence and ensure the prosecution of all perpetrators of violence against women, rehabilitation and support for victims of violence (Slovakia);**

111.105 **Implement a zero-tolerance policy on sexual and gender-based violence and ensure the prosecution of all perpetrators of violence against women, combined with rehabilitation and support for victims (Albania);**

111.106 **Pass laws prohibiting female genital mutilation (Lebanon);**

111.107 **Step up the efforts to combat female genital mutilation (Maldives);**

111.108 **Totally ban female genital mutilation as opposed to the age limit of 18 age and criminalize the practice (Zambia);**

111.109 **Explicitly prohibit all harmful practices against women of all ages, including female genital mutilation, child, early and forced marriage and practices inflicted on elderly women in relation to allegations of witchcraft, and take all necessary measures to enforce the prohibition (Slovenia);**

111.110 **Address the issue of female genital mutilation in an appropriate manner through awareness-raising programmes for parents, women, girls and traditional and religious leaders and suitable legal instruments, as previously recommended in the first universal periodic review and accepted by Sierra Leone (Germany);**

111.111 **Punish the practice of female genital mutilation and any harmful practices for physical and psychological health of girls and women (Spain);**

111.112 **Explicitly criminalize female genital mutilation and cutting in the domestic laws of Sierra Leone to achieve further progress in eliminating this harmful practice (Australia);**

111.113 **Adopt a law prohibiting participation of minor girls in initiation rites (Congo);**

111.114 **Continue to strive for a careful balance between measures taken against harmful traditional practices and respect for traditional cultural and spiritual beliefs (Jamaica);**

111.115 Adopt pertinent measures for economic empowerment of women, and intensify actions against female genital mutilation and early marriage (Cabo Verde);

111.116 Ensure the protection of the rights of women, especially by criminalizing and implementing laws on female genital mutilation, domestic and sexual violence (Botswana);

111.117 Prohibit legally female genital mutilation, as previously recommended (Switzerland);

111.118 Introduce the total legislative ban of female genital mutilation, to initiate a public discussion and awareness-raising campaign on female genital mutilation as a violation of human rights of girls and women (Czech Republic);

111.119 Strengthen the ban on the initiation of women with the view to totally eliminating the practice of female genital mutilation in the country (Uganda);

111.120 Eradicate the practice of female genital mutilation and continue its efforts regarding gender equality (Angola);

111.121 Continue the efforts to combat the practice of female genital mutilation (Algeria);

111.122 Explicitly prohibit traditional practices that harm the rights of women (Argentina);

111.123 Accelerate the efforts directed towards ending the harmful and traumatic practice of female genital mutilation (Croatia);

111.124 Take concrete steps to eliminate gender-based violence, in particular female genital mutilation (Czech Republic);

111.125 Continue to take measures to protect and promote the human rights of women, including the introduction of legislation to prohibit female genital mutilation (Japan);

111.126 Continues its efforts to address violence against women and to speed up efforts to enact the Gender Equality Bill (Namibia);

111.127 Adopt measures to prevent, punish and eradicate violence against women (Israel);

111.128 Take the necessary steps to combat girls' sexual abuse, in particular at school (Armenia);

111.129 Adopt appropriate measures to combat sexual abuse of girls in school, backed-up by the necessary human, technical and financial resources for any mechanisms (Honduras);

111.130 Consolidate measures aimed at combating violence against vulnerable groups (Côte d'Ivoire);

111.131 Take effective measures to provide adequate legal and other assistance for domestic and international trafficking victims, and intensify efforts to identify and prosecute trafficking cases (United States of America);

111.132 Take the necessary measures to adopt and implement the Child Labour Action Plan and provide information on the results achieved (Albania);

111.133 Expedite implementation of the National action plan against child labour exploitation (Angola);

**111.134 Continue national efforts to eliminate the phenomenon of child labour, including through a review of national labour legislations and increase community awareness about this phenomenon (Libya);**

**111.135 Promote efforts to prohibit child labour and eradicate this practice in the country (Oman);**

**111.136 Accelerate reforms within the justice sector in order to improve the conditions of judges and strengthen the independence of the judiciary (Portugal);**

**111.137 Continue to reform the judicial system in order to guarantee its independence and capacity to administrate justice, and speed up efforts to abolish the death penalty (Costa Rica);**

**111.138 Continue efforts for the reform of the judiciary, to improve access to justice and fight against the abusive recourse to pretrial detention (France);**

**111.139 Support the independence of judiciary and combat impunity (Oman);**

**111.140 Fight against impunity of the perpetrators of human rights violations, particularly those perpetrated during the civil war which have not been judged by the Special Tribunal for Sierra Leone, as well as those perpetrated by members of the law enforcement agencies (France);**

**111.141 Ensure access to justice for vulnerable groups, especially women and children, whom have been victimized by violence and abuse (Malaysia);**

**111.142 Continue to eliminate barriers to women enjoying effective access to justice and promote knowledge of their rights and provide basic legal assistance (Mexico);**

**111.143 Guarantee all individuals the right to be tried within reasonable time or released, and introduce alternative punishments to the imprisonment (Switzerland);**

**111.144 Take appropriate actions to reduce prison overcrowding, including through a reduction in lengthy pretrial detention and alternatives to custodial sentences for minor offences (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland);**

**111.145 Carry out measures to reduce overcrowding in prisons (Egypt);**

**111.146 Consider alternatives to prolonged pretrial detention and provide adequate resources to address poor prison conditions (United States of America);**

**111.147 Ensure adequate allocation of resources towards court infrastructure and capacity-building in the Judiciary (Botswana);**

**111.148 Combat impunity by ensuring prompt, thorough and transparent investigations of all violations against human rights defenders, and the prosecution of perpetrators (Canada);**

**111.149 Continue to adopt measures to strengthen the criminal justice system, in order to ensure accountability for crimes committed (Cuba);**

**111.150 Prioritize the setting-up of the Independent Police Complaint Board, building on best practices of the Complaints, Discipline and Internal Investigations Department (Jamaica);**

**111.151 Ensure that all police officers are aware of and abide by international human rights standards on police use of force (Germany);**

**111.152 Take prompt action to prevent harassment by police officers of members of the national Human Rights Commission, human rights defenders and citizens (Japan);**

**111.153 Continue supporting the family institution, which is one of the most important units in achieving goals of sustainable development goals in any State (Russian Federation);**

**111.154 Amend the Sierra Leone Citizenship Act so that women can transfer their nationality to their children and non-national spouses on an equal basis with men, and include a provision in the new Constitution which grants equal nationality rights to men and women (Canada);**

**111.155 Ensure equality of rights between men and women to acquire, transfer, change or conserve nationality and transmit it to children born abroad, as recommended in the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (Colombia);**

**111.156 Adopt measures to ensure that women can acquire, transfer, change or preserve their nationality and transfer it to their children born abroad, such that these children could be recognised by law through birth registration (Mexico);**

**111.157 Ensure full enjoyment of freedom and equality of religion and worship in the country (Cabo Verde);**

**111.158 Develop and enhance laws to protect the freedom of belief, freedom of expression and freedom of the press (Lebanon);**

**111.159 Take concrete steps to ensure the full enjoyment of the right to freedom of expression for all, including journalists and human rights defenders, and strengthen protection of journalists and human rights defenders against harassment and persecution (Czech Republic);**

**111.160 Uphold the right to freedom of expression, including journalists and human rights defenders, in particular taking steps to ensure that defamation charges are not used to undermine the right to freedom of expression (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland);**

**111.161 Refrain from criminalizing the legitimate activities of human rights defenders and journalists and repeal or amend all laws and policies which restrict their activities and rights (Netherlands);**

**111.162 Refrain from arbitrary arrest and the use of criminal libel laws against and harassment of journalists and opposition members (United States of America);**

**111.163 Repeal or revise the Public Order Act and Criminal and Seditious Libel laws, and guarantee freedom of expression for journalists (Ireland);**

**111.164 Decriminalize defamation in order to make it a civil offence (Belgium);**

**111.165 Take steps to fully and effectively implement the 2013 Freedom of Information Act, including by repealing criminal libel laws and the 1965 Public Order Act (Canada);**

**111.166 Implement a more inclusive governance system that promotes further representation of women into the national institutions (Congo);**

**111.167 Continue efforts to facilitate a greater participation and representation of women in public offices and in higher levels of decision-making positions (Israel);**

**111.168 Pass legislation that promotes further political participation of women in public elections positions (Costa Rica);**

**111.169 Implement recommendations of the 2012 European Union election observation mission promoting inclusiveness and transparency of the election process (Czech Republic);**

**111.170 Continue the efforts to end poverty (Lebanon);**

**111.171 Continue to strengthen the programmes of social protection being implemented in order to provide the best possible welfare and quality of life for its people, especially for those most in need (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela);**

**111.172 Take the necessary steps to implement the "Agenda for Prosperity" in an effective and timely manner (Azerbaijan);**

**111.173 Take measures to implement policies and programmes targeted at reducing poverty and improving the economy including the realization of the Agenda for Prosperity (Malaysia);**

**111.174 Make further improvements in the socioeconomic conditions with the view to promoting human rights in the country (Ethiopia);**

**111.175 Address the issue of inadequate water supply in the country urgently, including by providing appropriate temporary measures to communities in rural and urban areas in finding alternative means of water supply (Malaysia);**

**111.176 Continue to implement policies for socioeconomic development of its people under the Sustainable Development Goals (Pakistan);**

**111.177 Further continue improving health infrastructural institutions to withstand diseases like the Ebola pandemic (Ethiopia);**

**111.178 While expressing appreciation for the efforts undertaken in order to combat Ebola, we urge the Government of Sierra Leone to continue undertaking its efforts aimed at combating this disease and strengthen the health infrastructure and the management of the public health system (Iraq);**

**111.179 Duly implement and follow-up on the National Health Strategic Plan, above all its HIV related provisions, with a view to fighting new infections, discrimination and lethality (Brazil);**

**111.180 Strengthen the health service infrastructure and the restructuring of the public health system (Panama);**

**111.181 Strengthen the health infrastructure throughout the national territory (Senegal);**

**111.182 Continue to take the necessary steps to further strengthen its public health-care system (Singapore);**

**111.183 Improve on providing health care facilities to all communities in the country (Nigeria);**

**111.184 Take steps to ensure that free health care can be perpetually made accessible to vulnerable populations enabling them to enjoy high health coverage (Madagascar);**

**111.185 Ensure that vulnerable groups, especially women and children in rural areas, have access to quality health care services (Lao People's Democratic Republic);**

**111.186 Strengthen efforts in addressing maternal and child mortality (South Africa);**

**111.187 Make further efforts to build the capacity in both human resources and in the health sector to deal with epidemics and other health challenges, and request the international community to continue to assist Sierra Leone in building the capacity (Uganda);**

**111.188 Continue to advance its poverty reduction strategy and increase investment to health and education to improve national health-care system and raise education coverage (China);**

**111.189 Enhance the adoption of measures aimed at preventing the teenage pregnancy incidence (Colombia);**

**111.190 Integrate human rights education into the education system and in the military training institutions (Senegal);**

**111.191 Move forward training programmes on human rights for the security forces, and prevent, investigate and sanction cases of violence committed by law enforcement officials (Costa Rica);**

**111.192 Provide more human rights education and training programmes for law enforcement officials and agents (Oman);**

**111.193 Ensure that the New Education Sector Plan is well implemented and adequately resourced, in order to raise education standards at all levels in the country (Singapore);**

**111.194 Implement the Education Sector Plan as well as strategies and activities included in the Plan, to improve education management within the period 2014-2018 (Cuba);**

**111.195 Take measures to ensure the provision of the required resources for the full implementation of the new educational system introduced in 2012 (Namibia);**

**111.196 Prioritize universal basic education for the benefit of all Sierra Leonean children (Nigeria);**

**111.197 Promote the completion of education for children, and remove all hindrances and discrimination against children in fulfilling their right to education (Malaysia);**

**111.198 Strengthen all policies to bolster basic education, including education for girls, adult literacy and education for persons with disabilities (Madagascar);**

**111.199 Strengthen measures to ensure that women's access to education is enhanced (South Africa);**

**111.200 Continuing education programmes and early warning concerning teen pregnancies and ensure that girls and pregnant teenagers continue their studies during pregnancy (Uruguay);**

**111.201 Ensure the rights of all girls to education by inter alia reversing a decision to ban pregnant girls from attending classes and exams (Germany);**

**111.202 Promote school enrolment of girls and literacy of women (Angola);**

**111.203 Establish a range of measures for the application of the 2014 law on education with a view to ending women and young girls' illiteracy (Democratic Republic of the Congo);**

**111.204 Promote efforts to fight illiteracy (Lebanon);**

**111.205 Engage the civil society in the follow-up implementation process of the recommendations raised during the universal periodic review (Poland);**

**111.206 Continue to engage its regional and bilateral partners with the view to build capacity and mobilize resources in support of efforts to fulfil its human rights obligations (Philippines);**

**111.207 Strengthen efforts in infrastructure development in the country (South Africa);**

**111.208 Continue its efforts in implementing the outstanding recommendations from the previous universal periodic review cycle (Ukraine).**

**112. All conclusions and/or recommendations contained in the present report reflect the position of the submitting State(s) and/or the State under review. They should not be construed as endorsed by the Working Group as a whole.**

# Annex

## Composition of the delegation

The delegation of Sierra Leone was headed by the Attorney General and Minister of Justice, H. E. Joseph Fitzgerald Kamara and composed of the following members:

- Dr. Mohamed Gibril Sesay Minister of State 1, MFAIC
- Yvette Stevens, Ambassador, Permanent Representative of Sierra Leone to Switzerland and all United Nations Bodies
- Dr. Henry M'Bawa Coordinator JSCO
- Ms. Cassandra Labor Legal Expert
- Mr. Christopher L. Bockarie Human Rights Desk Officer

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**Thirty-second session**
Agenda item 6
**Universal periodic review**

# Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review*

# Singapore

* The annex is being circulated in the language of submission only.

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## Introduction

1. The Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review, established in accordance with Human Rights Council resolution 5/1, held its twenty-fourth session from 18 to 29 January 2016. The review of Singapore was held at the 16th meeting, on 27 January 2016. The delegation of Singapore was headed by Ambassador-at-Large, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Chan Heng Chee. At its 18th meeting, held on 29 January 2016, the Working Group adopted the report on Singapore.

2. On 12 January 2016, the Human Rights Council selected the following group of rapporteurs (troika) to facilitate the review of Singapore: Botswana, Ecuador and Maldives.

3. In accordance with paragraph 15 of the annex to Human Rights Council resolution 5/1 and paragraph 5 of the annex to Council resolution 16/21, the following documents were issued for the review of Singapore:

(a) A national report submitted/written presentation made in accordance with paragraph 15 (a) (A/HRC/WG.6/24/SGP/1);

(b) A compilation prepared by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) in accordance with paragraph 15 (b) (A/HRC/WG.6/24/SGP/2);

(c) A summary prepared by OHCHR in acordance with paragraph 15 (c) (A/HRC/WG.6/24/SGP/3).

4. A list of questions prepared in advance by Belgium, the Czech Republic, Germany, Liechtenstein, Mexico, the Netherlands, Norway, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and the United States of America was transmitted to Singapore through the troika. These questions are available on the extranet of the universal periodic review.

## I. Summary of the proceedings of the review process

### A. Presentation by the State under review

5. The Permanent Representative of Singapore, Foo Kok Jwee, said that his country supported and remained committed to the universal periodic review process. It provided a framework for all States to have a conversation on their human rights achievements and challenges on equal terms. The review allowed Singapore to listen to others' views, take stock of progress and engage its citizens and civil society, to achieve its goal of building a fair and inclusive society.

6. He noted that the review was also an opportunity for States to share their best practices and experiences. Singapore would share how it managed the enduring challenges of dealing with primordial and visceral forces of race, language and religion in its diverse society, while trying to overcome its developmental and social challenges.

7. The head of the Singaporean delegation, Ms. Chan, said that the heart of the Singapore story was finding the right political, economic and social strategies for broadly uplifting all communities in Singapore. Singapore was a multiracial society with different languages, religions and cultures. Its social harmony did not happen by chance but by deliberate choices and policies. Each community was prepared to accommodate others and not insist on its own primacy. Crucially, the majority Chinese community agreed not to

assert its majoritarian status, which helped to preserve the common space for all Singaporeans.

8. The Ambassador said that the Government treasured every Singaporean. She also said that Singapore focused on the basics in the first three decades of its nationhood: security, fair opportunities for a good education, stable jobs and homeownership. In the previous 10 years, in response to a widening income gap due to globalization and the technological revolution, more was done to ensure social mobility and provide assurance for older Singaporeans, to ensure that Singapore remained an inclusive society.

9. She said that the Government remained committed to, and invested in, the relentless task of caring for Singaporeans and protecting their fundamental rights, independent of any United Nations human rights review. Singapore was determined to remain a multiracial, fair and just society, with a culture of self-reliance and mutual support, as well as sustain the bond of trust between the Government and its people that had been developed over the previous 50 years. Good governance and a forward-looking outlook were the other key ingredients for the success of Singapore.

10. She noted that Singaporean society was changing. The Government had implemented several new policies since its previous review to enhance social protection and strengthen social harmony, such as MediShield Life, the Pioneer Generation Package, and an enabling master plan for persons with disabilities. In July 2013, Singapore ratified the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities; in 2015, it signed the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination; also in 2015, Singapore acceded to the United Nations Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime (Palermo Protocol).

11. The Ambassador said that, while the principles of governance of Singapore, how it protected human rights and preserved social harmony, might not fully conform to how other societies had organized themselves, Singapore had to take a practical and not an ideological approach to human rights. She noted that countries in the West had to review some of their more liberal policies because they proved inadequate in dealing with contemporary manifestations of terrorism, extremism and immigration. Every country should therefore be given the time and space to deal with its own development and advance human rights in its own way, taking into account its unique social and cultural context.

## B. Interactive dialogue and responses by the State under review

12. During the interactive dialogue, 113 delegations made statements. Recommendations made during the dialogue are in section II below.

13. Nepal praised investment in education and health. It welcomed the ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the signing of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, and encouraged Singapore to consider ratifying the remaining core international human rights instruments.

14. The Netherlands was willing to share experiences with Singapore on developing a national action plan on business and human rights. It expressed concern about executions and new death sentences since the previous review.

15. Israel welcomed the Prevention of Human Trafficking Act, the Protection from Harassment Act, the Workfare Income Supplement Scheme, MediShield Life, and measures regarding senior citizens and employment of persons with disabilities.

16. Nicaragua highlighted the priority given to and high investment in education and health, and improvements in the quality of life of persons with disabilities.

17. Nigeria appreciated efforts to strengthen social protection, education and health care. It welcomed the increase of women in high positions, the Legal Aid Bureau and the Criminal Legal Aid Scheme.

18. Norway encouraged Singapore to take more concrete measures to protect the human rights of sexual minorities. It expressed concern about the resumption of executions in 2014 and 2015.

19. Oman welcomed the social and economic development, harmony and cohesion among citizens, and the ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

20. Pakistan appreciated efforts to foster religious and ethnic harmony, including new Muslim laws, improvements in sharia courts and a social action plan towards de-radicalization.

21. Panama noted positively the recent modification of penal legal instruments. It wished to see total freedom of information for its citizens.

22. Paraguay welcomed the enlarged subsidies to protect older persons, the ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, and the 2012-2016 plan to improve accessibility.

23. Peru underscored the progress made, including in implementing economic and social policies for a more just and inclusive society, and efforts to protect migrant workers.

24. The Philippines praised the great strides made in combating human trafficking, and efforts to uphold migrant workers' rights.

25. Poland noted that there was room for improving institutional measures and cooperation with human rights mechanisms.

26. Portugal acknowledged the economic development of Singapore while regretting its ending of a de facto moratorium on the death penalty.

27. Qatar praised efforts to protect and promote human rights, particularly measures regarding education, health services and the elderly.

28. The Republic of Korea noted practical efforts to realize human rights, specifically the health-care 2020 master plan, the Silver Support Scheme and Government-paid paternity leave.

29. The Russian Federation welcomed the new policy of extending social support to citizens, particularly the elderly and those with lower incomes, and the ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

30. Saudi Arabia noted achievements, in particular improved social services, provided to the elderly and those with lower incomes.

31. Senegal noted measures to improve the education system and the situation of the elderly, and to provide aid to people with low incomes.

32. Serbia welcomed efforts to uphold socioeconomic rights and enhance social cohesion, and encouraged Singapore to explore the possibility of accepting the universal standards on civil and political rights.

33. Sierra Leone encouraged Singapore to incorporate into its legislation a clear definition of all forms of discrimination against women in line with the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women.

34. Slovakia encouraged Singapore to fully implement the Prevention of Human Trafficking Act. It expressed concern about the imposition of the death penalty.

35. Slovenia welcomed programmes to promote and protect the rights of older persons.

36. South Africa regretted the decision of Singapore to resume executions in 2014.

37. Spain welcomed the progress in combating trafficking in persons, and the national plan to combat domestic violence. It encouraged repeal of section 377 A of the Penal Code.

38. Sri Lanka praised steps to guarantee the rights of its citizens. It noted its accession to the Palermo Protocol.

39. Sweden acknowledged the commitment of Singapore to the universal periodic review.

40. Switzerland reiterated that the death penalty had no deterrent effect. It expressed concern that arrests without trial were authorized under the Penal Code and other laws.

41. Tajikistan appreciated measures to preserve mutual understanding among those who followed different religions.

42. Thailand welcomed the accession of Singapore to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, the Palermo Protocol and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Convention against Trafficking in Persons. It noted efforts to safeguard foreign workers' rights by strengthening the Employment of Foreign Manpower Act.

43. Timor-Leste welcomed the National Family Violence Networking System and the Inter-agency Task Force on Trafficking in Persons.

44. Trinidad and Tobago applauded the legal amendments made to better protect workers, girls and young women, and initiatives to ensure the well-being of older Singaporeans.

45. Turkey welcomed measures to expand the social security network and encouraged Singapore to further strengthen its efforts to protect women's rights.

46. Uganda noted that many international instruments had yet to be ratified, including the Convention relating to the Status of Refugees and the Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons.

47. Ukraine acknowledged the commitment of Singapore to secularism and multiracialism to ensure equal standing and opportunities for all citizens.

48. The United Arab Emirates noted the progress in social rights and freedom of religion.

49. The United Kingdom welcomed new measures to protect migrant workers from exploitation. It urged revision to laws and regulations that could prohibit freedom of speech, media and assembly, and removal of scandalizing the judiciary as an offence.

50. The United States welcomed the Prevention of Human Trafficking Act. It expressed concern about respect for individuals' civil and political rights, including those of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons, and restrictions on freedom of expression.

51. Uzbekistan welcomed achievements to ensure the rule of law, and the ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the Palermo Protocol.

52. The Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela welcomed the ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, and the progress in implementing the national road map for the integration of persons with disabilities into society.

53. Bangladesh appreciated the safeguarding of social harmony through legally protected respect for diversity. It noted efforts to safeguard migrants' well-being, and welcomed strengthened social protection for low-income citizens.

54. Zimbabwe noted policies and programmes to improve social protection, particularly for the elderly and low- and middle-income groups. It welcomed the ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the Palermo Protocol.

55. Afghanistan welcomed the implementation of the second national plan for persons with disabilities to help them to better integrate in the community.

56. Albania welcomed measures by Singapore to provide quality and affordable care for elderly persons, putting in place programmes and relevant infrastructure.

57. Algeria welcomed measures to strengthen social welfare programmes, especially for the most destitute, and the national plan for the elderly.

58. Argentina welcomed the national action plan against trafficking in persons. It expressed concern about the use of the death penalty.

59. Australia welcomed the ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the signature of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, as well as the Misuse of Drugs (Amendment) Act and the Penal Code (Amendment) Act.

60. Austria welcomed the progress achieved by Singapore since its previous review, including the protection of the rights of the elderly and persons with disabilities, and the fight against human trafficking. It encouraged extending an invitation to the Special Rapporteur on freedom of expression.

61. In response to questions on the death penalty, Singapore said no civilized society glorified in the taking of lives. Singapore applied capital punishment to deter the most serious crimes such as murder and drug trafficking.

62. Singapore said it was small and densely populated, and situated in a region with major drug trafficking centres. Ensuring Singaporeans' fundamental right to safety and security was paramount. By being tough on crime and emphasizing rehabilitation, the system succeeded in protecting lives while having one of the world's lowest homicide rates. Drug abuse rates were kept under control.

63. In 2012, following a regular criminal justice review and rigorous debates in Parliament, Singapore made the mandatory death penalty discretionary under very specific situations.

64. The application of corporal punishment was guided by necessity and proportionality. There were absolute limits on the number of strokes, and it was administered under highly regulated conditions.

65. Singapore enacted the Protection from Harassment Act in 2014 in response to calls for greater protection from harassment, including online harassment, from its citizens and civil society.

66. Singapore kept core treaties under review and engaged seriously with treaty bodies. While Singapore was not party to certain treaties, its domestic policies generally complied with their substance.

67. Singapore gave space for freedom of assembly without compromising order and stability. Public assemblies generally required permits, except those posing lower safety and security risks. From 2012 to 2015, 88 public demonstrations took place at the Speakers' Corner.

68. Singapore applied preventive detention without trial only as a last resort and only under exceptional circumstances to counter serious threats against public order or national

security. The Internal Security Act was effective in addressing the threat of terrorism in the current heightened security climate.

69. Preventive detention was governed by the same robust checks and balances as normal arrests. Rehabilitation was a key component to help detainees reintegrate into society after release. Volunteers from the Religious Rehabilitation Group gave religious counselling to counter radical ideology.

70. On trafficking in persons, Singapore established an Inter-agency Task Force on Trafficking in Persons in 2010, launched a national plan of action in 2012 and enacted the Prevention of Human Trafficking Act in 2015. Singapore co-funded public awareness initiatives, and partnered with civil society to provide assistance, such as temporary employment and language lessons for victims. Singapore was one of the first to ratify the ASEAN Convention against Trafficking in Persons in January 2016.

71. Responding to a question on conscientious objectors, Singapore underscored that it had no choice but to base its defence on citizen soldiers. National service applied to all male Singaporeans and Permanent Residents, regardless of race or religion. Singapore recognized freedom of religion as a constitutional right, but allowing individuals to opt out or choose alternative forms of national service would weaken its strong public support and impact the defence of Singapore.

72. On freedom of speech, no one in Singapore was prosecuted for criticizing the Government or its policies, and many were doing so. The Constitution guaranteed the right to freedom of expression. However, there must be safeguards against those who abused this right to denigrate or offend the beliefs of others, or to incite racial or religious hatred.

73. The Online News Licensing Scheme puts print and online news on more equal regulatory footing, but did not change standards required of the content.

74. The media regulatory framework was complemented with a strong focus on promoting media and information literacy. The independent Media Literacy Council and the Inter-Ministry Cyber Wellness Steering Committee were established to achieve these goals.

75. On defamation suits involving politicians, Singapore placed great importance on the credibility of public institutions and political leaders. Libellous allegations were challenged in court. Trust and reputation were invaluable assets in Government, which Singapore did not want to see debased.

76. Singapore affirmed that lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons were part of Singaporean society and their contributions were acknowledged like those of all citizens. The Government had to manage lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex issues sensitively and pragmatically without fracturing society because Singapore was basically a conservative society.

77. Section 377 A of the Penal Code on sodomy, which was inherited during the colonial history of Singapore, was not proactively enforced. Lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons were free to lead their lives. Parliament decided after an intense debate in 2007 to retain this law. The Prime Minister noted at that time that it was better to accept the legal untidiness and ambiguity of leaving the law as it was, and it would not be wise to force this issue by settling it one way or the other. Singapore firmly opposed discrimination and harassment, and did not discriminate against lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex applicants to the civil service. The approach was "to live and let live", preserve the common space for all communities, and let society evolve gradually and decide collectively.

78. Azerbaijan noted the ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and accession to the Palermo Protocol. It welcomed the Inter-Racial and Religious Confidence Circles Steering Committees.

79. Bahamas welcomed the people-centred policies and programmes of Singapore, its universal health-care scheme, increased assistance to persons with disabilities, and accession to the Palermo Protocol.

80. Bahrain welcomed steps to improve living conditions, and to achieve social harmony and religious tolerance.

81. Viet Nam welcomed the achievements in protecting and promoting human rights since the previous review.

82. Barbados noted the ethnic and religious diversity. It welcomed investment in housing, health care and education, and attention for the elderly and less well-off.

83. Belarus noted the approach of Singapore to combating human trafficking. It welcomed efforts to enhance social protection, and additional investments in education, health and housing.

84. Belgium encouraged Singapore to align its domestic legislation with the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women. It expressed concern about minors' still being enlisted in the army and judged by a military tribunal.

85. Benin welcomed efforts to promote education, health care and children's rights. It noted legislative reforms to protect women, children and girls against violence, negligence and exploitation.

86. Bhutan noted that the education and health-care systems of Singapore had resulted in an increase in the well-being of its citizens.

87. The Plurinational State of Bolivia recognized advances on education and health. It welcomed the signing of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination and encouraged its prompt ratification.

88. Botswana noted measures to fight human trafficking. It also encouraged expediting the ratification of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination. It expressed concern that Muslim women did not enjoy equal rights regarding family, marriage and divorce.

89. Brazil appreciated policies to enhance social protection, and investments in education. It noted laws and policies promoting tolerance among ethnic and religious groups, and also encouraged the prompt ratification of the International Convention.

90. Brunei Darussalam noted the importance attached to quality and affordable health care. It welcomed efforts to provide education bursaries to children from two-thirds of Singaporean households.

91. Burundi welcomed measures to enhance the rights of children and persons with disabilities, as well as the right to housing and measures to combat human trafficking.

92. Cambodia welcomed the ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and achievements in housing, health care, education, protection of the elderly, and prevention of human trafficking.

93. Germany appreciated positive developments regarding freedom of opinion, especially during the latest elections. It expressed concern about the practice of caning, the death penalty and the situation of foreign workers.

94. Chile noted the progress in implementing previous universal periodic review recommendations.

95. China noted achievements in housing, health, education and social services, racial equality and freedom of religion, and measures to combat human trafficking.

96. Colombia welcomed the establishment of an Inter-ministerial Committee on Human Rights to follow up and implement recommendations.

97. The Congo appreciated the ratification of the main international human rights instruments.

98. Costa Rica underscored social and development policies to address inequality, while expressing concern about restrictions on peaceful demonstrations and freedom of expression.

99. Cuba welcomed efforts to strengthen social protection and improve health care, including the Progressive Wage Model and MediShield Life, and the national action plan for the elderly.

100. Cyprus welcomed reforms to enhance social protection, particularly for the elderly and low-income earners, and to improve health care and housing.

101. The Czech Republic appreciated the responses to its advance questions.

102. The Democratic People's Republic of Korea welcomed efforts to strengthen social protection, health care and care for the elderly, and to protect women and girls, children and persons with disabilities.

103. Denmark asked what concrete steps had been taken to ratify the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment.

104. Ecuador welcomed efforts to promote intercultural and religious harmony, and to protect the rights of older persons and persons with disabilities.

105. Egypt welcomed extensive social protection measures for older persons and groups with limited income in areas of housing, education and health.

106. Ethiopia appreciated the efficient health-care systems, lifelong learning and access to education, and improved social protection.

107. Fiji welcomed efforts to strengthen social cohesion, the national action plan against human trafficking, and the amendment of laws related to gender equality.

108. Finland welcomed the ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination. It encouraged decriminalization of consensual sexual activity and revoking censorship guidelines discriminating against lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons.

109. Singapore planned ahead to meet the needs of an ageing population and advocated a more positive view of older persons. To improve health-care affordability, Singapore enhanced its MediShield Life scheme in 2015 to provide universal health coverage for life, regardless of age or pre-existing conditions.

110. The vision of Singapore was to create "A Nation for All Ages". It launched an action plan for successful ageing in August 2015 to create a conducive workplace for all ages, and reorganize its health-care system to place more emphasis on prevention and make the delivery of health-care services more appropriate for the ageing population, make its city infrastructure more senior-friendly, and provide a greater range of social activities for its seniors.

111. Singapore invited the Independent Expert on the enjoyment of all human rights by older persons to visit.

112. Singapore improved welfare provisions to vulnerable groups and timely protection, while ensuring they felt safe in their environment. The poor received additional cash assistance above subsidies available to all citizens. Timely and flexible assistance avoided the "cliff effect". Singapore established 24 Social Service Offices, and there were more than 400 civil society organizations where people could get early help. This also enabled the Government to receive regular feedback to adjust policies to evolving needs.

113. The enabling master plan (2012—2016) made Singapore a friendlier and more accessible place for persons with disabilities. Transport and infrastructure were more wheelchair-accessible, and spending in special education schools increased by 50 per cent in the previous five years.

114. Singapore was strongly committed to its obligations under the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women. To promote shared parental responsibilities, fathers received up to two weeks' paternity leave, and working mothers could share a week's maternity leave with husbands. Singapore also took a gender-sensitive perspective on issues such as health.

115. Singapore planned to enact the Vulnerable Adults Act in 2016 to protect adults who suffered from or were at risk of abuse, neglect or self-neglect. Singapore also planned to amend the Mental Capacity Act to protect the dignity and interest of individuals who lacked the mental capacity to make informed decisions on their own.

116. Responding to questions, Singapore stressed that corporal punishment of young persons was the last resort. It was subject to stringent safeguards, after counselling and alternative disciplinary methods had repeatedly failed.

117. Singapore planned to consider extending the care and protection provisions under the Children and Young Persons Act from 16 to 18 years of age.

118. Singapore underscored that its racial and religious harmony was the result of continuing efforts by the Government, community organizations and citizens. Its Constitution affirmed that all citizens were equal before the law regardless of race, language or religion. The Presidential Council for Minority Rights scrutinized bills to ensure that they did not unfairly discriminate against any race or religion. Singapore implemented an Ethnic Integration Policy to ensure a balanced mix of ethnic communities in public housing, and made English the working language so as not to favour any particular ethnic group. Group Representation Constituencies also ensured that minorities would always be represented in Parliament.

119. The Government regularly engaged ethnic and religious community leaders through the National Steering Committee on Racial and Religious Harmony. The Inter-Racial and Religious Confidence Circles in every constituency brought together different ethnic and religious leaders to organize common activities and nurture trust. Singapore intended to ratify the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination in 2017.

120. Its Constitution enjoined the Government of Singapore to care for the interests of the Malays, the indigenous people of Singapore who were overwhelmingly of the Muslim faith. The Administration of the Muslim Law Act in 1968 established the Islamic Religious Council of Singapore, Syariah Court and Registry of Muslim Marriages, which worked closely together to ensure that the practice of Muslim law in Singapore was progressive and responsive to evolving social contexts, while adhering to the principles of Islam. The madrasas provided an academic education within an Islamic environment.

121. Singapore explained how it created better skills, better jobs and better careers as the best form of welfare for its workers. It recently implemented the SkillsFuture initiative to develop an integrated system of education, training and career progression, and foster lifelong learning. It provided grants and subsidies for training and support for leadership development, and fostered collaboration with employers and unions to meet industries' future manpower needs.

122. The Workfare Income Supplement Scheme was a targeted scheme that helped low-income workers be self-reliant through continued employment through cash supplements, retirement savings top-ups, and up to 95 per cent subsidies for training courses. For sectors facing depressed wages, the Progressive Wage Model set out training requirements in exchange for higher wages. Those efforts contributed to social mobility.

123. Singapore had one of world's highest migrant worker concentrations. One in three persons in its workforce was foreign. Singapore valued their contributions and was committed to safeguarding their well-being and rights.

124. Surveys showed most migrant workers were happy with their work conditions, and would recommend to their families and friends to work in Singapore. Laws such as the Employment Act provided them the same avenues of justice as locals. Additional safeguards were provided through the Employment of Foreign Manpower Act and the Employment Agencies Act. Those mandated, for instance, that employers give payslips, and that the withholding of passports against workers' wishes was illegal. Fees that Singapore employment agencies could charge workers were also limited.

125. The Government shared complaints with relevant embassies in Singapore for investigations by local authorities. Singapore had taken a range of actions against more than 2,000 errant employers in 2015. Every complaint of abuse reported was investigated. Singapore was working with civil society to reach out to foreign workers about their rights and where they could seek help.

126. Singapore noted that all types of foreign worker housing must adhere to rules on safety and well-being. The longer-term direction was to improve workers' living conditions towards larger dormitories with full facilities.

127. Singapore introduced a weekly rest day for foreign domestic workers, and the maximum penalties for abuses of such workers under its Penal Code were 1.5 times the norm. The Government worked with civil society to provide skills training on workers' rest days.

128. France welcomed the accession of Singapore to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the signature of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination.

129. Georgia highlighted policies to enhance social protection, especially for low- and middle-income citizens, and steps to improve education and health care. It welcomed the ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities while encouraging ratification of the remaining international instruments.

130. Canada acknowledged accession to the Palermo Protocol.

131. Ghana welcomed the Inter-agency Task Force on Trafficking in Persons and the National Family Violence Networking System.

132. Greece highlighted the progress in access to education for all, women's empowerment in public, corporate and civil society sectors, and the protection of child victims of violence.

133. Haiti welcomed progress in achieving ethnic diversity, social harmony and an open immigration policy.

134. The Holy See noted the Inter-Agency Task Force on Trafficking in Persons, and the national plan of action on trafficking in persons.

135. Honduras welcomed the ratification of the Palermo Protocol.

136. India welcomed the ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, the high representation of women in public life, and recent legislative initiatives aimed at preventing trafficking in persons.

137. Indonesia encouraged Singapore to consider developing a comprehensive human rights national action plan and strengthening national human rights institutions in conformity with the principles relating to the status of national institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights (the Paris Principles).

138. The Islamic Republic of Iran appreciated efforts in education, public health and protection of the elderly.

139. Iraq urged ratification of the remaining core international human rights treaties.

140. Ireland noted the ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, the signature of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, and the national action plan on trafficking in persons. Ireland expressed concern about the resumption of executions in 2014 and reports of restrictions on the right to freedom of peaceful assembly.

141. New Zealand acknowledged that judges were allowed to exercise discretion in imposing the death penalty in some cases.

142. Italy welcomed measures to strengthen social protection and investments aimed at improving education, health care and housing, and the commitment of Singapore to advancing the rights of women and the situation of the elderly.

143. Jamaica welcomed the advances in social cohesion achieved through the promotion of human rights and the rule of law.

144. Japan welcomed measures to provide financial support for lower-income citizens, improve education and health care, promote the rights of persons with disabilities, improve working environments and respond to the challenges of the ageing society.

145. Kazakhstan welcomed the progress in social protection, health, education, housing and women's rights, and the policy of ensuring equal standing and opportunities to all citizens.

146. Kenya welcomed the progressive social policies that promoted harmony and social inclusion.

147. Kuwait noted achievements in education, health care and the rule of law.

148. Kyrgyzstan noted ethnic and religious diversity in Singapore. It also welcomed policies to promote and protect human rights.

149. The Lao People's Democratic Republic welcomed the progress in social protection, social harmony, building a fair and inclusive society, gender equality, education and health-care services, and freedom of expression.

150. Latvia welcomed measures to strengthen social protection, in particular to ensure access to quality education for all, enhance gender equality, provide universal health care, and strengthen child protection.

151. Lebanon welcomed achievements in education, housing and health care.

152. Libya welcomed the ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the creation of a government agency to create employment opportunities for persons with disabilities, and efforts to raise awareness on religious tolerance and social harmony.

153. Malaysia noted enhanced socioeconomic protection for low- and middle-income households through improved access to quality education, housing and health care. It welcomed the programmatic strategies to provide care for an ageing population.

154. Maldives welcomed the ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, the signature of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, accession to the Palermo Protocol, and efforts to strengthen the national legislation on trafficking in persons.

155. Mauritius noted the enabling master plan for persons with disabilities, the Prevention of Human Trafficking Act, accession to the Palermo Protocol, and the Inter-Racial and Religious Confidence Circles Steering Committees to promote inter-faith and inter-racial harmony.

156. Mexico welcomed the ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

157. Montenegro welcomed the National Family Violence Networking System, and asked about plans to criminalize domestic violence and marital rape, and ensure that the definition of rape covered any non-consensual sexual act.

158. Morocco welcomed the progress in education, health and housing, as well as various initiatives to promote and protect the rights of children, persons with disabilities and victims of human trafficking.

159. Myanmar welcomed the progress in social protection; health care; the rights of women, children and persons with disabilities; care for migrant workers and their well-being; and preserving social harmony.

160. Namibia welcomed efforts to improve the lives of citizens in all stages, such as the increased spending on education and support of low-income Singaporeans through the Workfare Income Supplement Scheme.

161. Uruguay welcomed social policies for vulnerable sectors while expressing concern about criminalization of homosexual relations. It positively noted that the death penalty was no longer mandatory for some offences.

162. In closing, Ms. Chan said that Singapore would examine each comment and question carefully to consider how to further improve its efforts to realize human rights.

163. She added that Singapore had a strong position on gender equality and would strive to do better. Singapore would actively review the need to repeal marital rape immunity.

164. Ms. Chan expressed appreciation for many delegations' acknowledgement of the good work by Singapore in strengthening social protection and social harmony.

165. Singapore would continue to consult its citizens and civil society. It would have to chart its own course and adapt its policies to remain relevant in the ever-changing social, economic and political circumstances to serve Singaporeans best.

## II. Conclusions and/or recommendations**

166. **The following recommendations will be examined by Singapore, which will provide responses in due time, but no later than the thirty-second session of the Human Rights Council in June 2016.**

166.1 **Consider the ratification of the international human rights instruments, to which it is not yet a party (Nicaragua);**

166.2 **Continue its accession to the core international human rights instruments (Azerbaijan);**

166.3 **Consider ratifying the human rights treaties, to which Singapore is not yet a party, especially the International Covenants (Costa Rica); Promptly undertake the necessary procedures for ratification of the core human rights treaties, including the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (Japan); Consider ratifying other core human rights treaties such as the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (Mauritius);**

166.4 **Ratify more human rights treaties, especially the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (Israel);**

166.5 **Sign and ratify the human rights instruments already accepted in the previous review (Uruguay);**

166.6 **Consider ratifying the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (Ghana);**

166.7 **Ratify the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (Georgia) (Kenya) (Morocco) (Russian Federation);**

166.8 **Ratify the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, signed in 2015 (Senegal); Complete the Convention's ratification process (Turkey); Ratify the Convention at the earliest opportunity (Australia); Work towards ratifying the Convention, which it signed in 2015 (Zimbabwe);**

166.9 **Ratify all core human rights treaties to which it is not yet a party, including the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination; the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights; the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights; and the Convention against Torture (Latvia);**

166.10 **Ratify the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination and consider ratifying the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (Slovakia);**

166.11 **Become a party to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and its Optional Protocols (Sweden);**

166.12 **Facilitate acceding to both the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (Republic of Korea); Consider acceding to the International**

** The conclusions and recommendations have not been edited.

**Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (Thailand);**

166.13 **Consider ratifying the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (Ghana);**

166.14 **Fulfil its international obligations by ratifying as a matter of priority the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (France);**

166.15 **Ratify the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (Montenegro) (South Africa);**

166.16 **Ratify other core international human rights treaties, particularly the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights; the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights; the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination; the Convention against Torture; and the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (Slovenia);**

166.17 **Ratify the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and its Optional Protocols and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and its Optional Protocol (Finland);**

166.18 **Ratify the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and its Second Optional Protocol; the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and its Optional Protocol; as well as the Convention against Torture (Portugal);**

166.19 **Take appropriate measures towards acceding to other core international human rights instruments, namely the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights; the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights; the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination; and the Convention against Torture (Kazakhstan);**

166.20 **Ratify the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights aiming at the abolition of the death penalty (Montenegro);**

166.21 **Establish a formal moratorium on the death penalty, with a view to ratifying the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (Australia);**

166.22 **Consider ratifying the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (Ghana);**

166.23 **Consider the possibility of acceding to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights; the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families; and the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the sale of children (Egypt);**

166.24 **Consider ratifying the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights; the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights; and the Second Optional Protocol thereto (Namibia);**

166.25 **Remove its reservations to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and sign its Optional Protocol (Sweden);**

**166.26 Accede to the Convention against Torture (New Zealand); Ratify the Convention against Torture (South Africa) (Switzerland);**

**166.27 Consider ratifying the Convention against Torture (Ghana);**

**166.28 Consider ratifying the Convention against Torture, the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families, and ILO Convention 189 (Philippines);**

**166.29 Intensify its efforts to ratify the Convention against Torture (Denmark);**

**166.30 Initiate the procedures aimed at ratifying the Convention against Torture (Chile);**

**166.31 Ratify the Convention against Torture and its Optional Protocol (Cyprus) (Lebanon);**

**166.32 Ratify the Convention against Torture and Optional Protocol thereto, as well as the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (Czech Republic);**

**166.33 Take concrete steps towards the abolition of the death penalty and corporal punishment, including ratifying the Convention against Torture and its Optional Protocol (Sweden);**

**166.34 Sign and ratify the Convention against Torture and the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance (France);**

**166.35 Complete the process of accession to the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the sale of children (Kyrgyzstan);**

**166.36 Ratify the Convention on the Rights of the Child, in particular its Optional Protocol on the sale of children (Senegal);**

**166.37 Withdraw reservations and declarations made on the occasion of accession to the Convention on the Rights of the Child and gradually incorporate its provisions into domestic law (Uruguay);**

**166.38 Accede to the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the sale of children (Ecuador); Ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the sale of children (Australia) (Paraguay);**

**166.39 Consider accession to the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the sale of children (Albania);**

**166.40 Continue to work towards completion of necessary internal processes so that it may accede to the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the sale of children (Bahamas);**

**166.41 Speed up the consideration of accession to the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the sale of children (Belarus);**

**166.42 Consider accession to the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (Peru); Consider ratifying the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (Ghana);**

**166.43 Ratify the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (Algeria) (Ecuador);**

**166.44 Sign and ratify the core international human rights instruments, including the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families, the Convention against Torture, the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (Sierra Leone);**

**166.45 Take efforts toward the accession of international human rights instruments, including the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families and the Convention against Torture (Indonesia);**

**166.46 Consider ratifying the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance (Ghana);**

**166.47 Ratify the Convention against Discrimination in Education (Benin);**

**166.48 Consider favourably accession to the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (Peru); Consider ratifying the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (Ghana);**

**166.49 Accede to the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (Poland); Ratify the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (Benin) (Botswana) (France) (Latvia); Become a party to the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (Austria);**

**166.50 Accede to and fully align its national legislation with the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (Cyprus) (Portugal);**

**166.51 Ratify core international human rights instruments, in particular the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court, the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families and the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture (Honduras);**

**166.52 Take measures to ratify ILO Conventions 111 and 189 and to amend the labour legislation so that it also apply to foreign domestic workers and ensure that such workers are entitled to adequate wages, decent working conditions, benefits and access to complaint and redress mechanisms (Brazil);**

**166.53 Review its policy with respect to the ratification of ILO Convention No. 111 (Trinidad and Tobago);**

**166.54 Ratify ILO Conventions Nos. 87, 111, 169 and 189 (Benin);**

**166.55 Ratify the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees and the Protocol to it, as well as the Convention against Torture (Ukraine);**

**166.56 Continue to ensure the implementation of ratified human rights treaties (Pakistan);**

**166.57 Take further steps in order establish an independent national human rights institution giving emphasis to the protection of women's rights (Greece);**

**166.58 Continue to improve its legal instruments in the field of human rights and social protection (Tajikistan);**

**166.59 Further implement international human rights norms into the national legislation (Uzbekistan);**

**166.60 Enact comprehensive legislation prohibiting discrimination in employment on the basis of sex, race, ethnicity, religion, age, sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, marital status or disability (Canada);**

**166.61 Review laws and regulations that call for immediate and automatic deportation of migrant workers on health grounds (Uganda);**

**166.62 Align its legislation to the definition of discrimination against women in accordance with Article 1 of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, and adopt laws and policies for the full participation of women in both public and private decision spaces (Paraguay);**

**166.63 Continue incorporating the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women into its domestic legal system to eliminate all forms of discrimination against women (Serbia);**

**166.64 Consider incorporating into its legislation a definition of discrimination against women (Timor-Leste);**

**166.65 Continue efforts to harmonize its legislation and ensure equality between men and women, particularly in marriage and family relations (Botswana);**

**166.66 Place high priority on the full incorporation of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women into the domestic legal system (Greece);**

**166.67 Consider adopting laws and policies on the promotion of the full participation of women under equal conditions in decision-making in all sectors of public, political and professional life (Plurinational State of Bolivia);**

**166.68 Abolish section 377 A of the Penal Code (Norway);**

**166.69 Take necessary measures to eliminate legislation that criminalizes same-sex relations and to repeal section 377 A of the Penal Code (Slovenia);**

**166.70 Decriminalize consensual homosexual relations between adults (Spain);**

**166.71 Revoke legal provisions criminalizing sexual activity between consenting adults (Sweden);**

**166.72 Repeal laws that criminalize homosexuality (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland);**

**166.73 Repeal the anti-sodomy law, which criminalizes the private consensual conduct of gay men (United States of America);**

**166.74 Formally repeal section 377 A of the Penal Code criminalising homosexual acts (Austria);**

**166.75 Take the necessary measures to eliminate legislation and policies that criminalize, in a direct or an indirect way, same sex relations and discriminate against lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons (Brazil);**

**166.76 Eliminate provisions in national legislation that discriminate against women and other groups such as lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons, including revising the section 377 A of the Penal Code (Czech Republic);**

**166.77 Repeal section 377 A of the Penal Code to decriminalize homosexuality (France);**

**166.78 Consider de-criminalizing same-sex relations (Greece);**

**166.79 Enact a national migrant legislation to protect the rights of migrant workers and ensure that migrant workers who wish to pursue claim against employers are not forced to repatriate without access to justice (Afghanistan);**

**166.80 Abolish corporal punishment as a legal penalty, in particular caning (Switzerland);**

**166.81 Establish both domestic violence and marital violence as crimes under domestic law in accordance with international standards (Paraguay);**

**166.82 Criminalize gender violence and modify the definition of rape to define it as non-consensual sex within or outside marriage (Spain);**

**166.83 Criminalize explicitly domestic violence and marital rape and make sure that the definition of rape is in line with international standards, and take steps to facilitate the reporting of domestic and sexual violence and protect victims (Belgium);**

**166.84 Continue working on the legislation on domestic violence crimes, particularly regarding the inclusion of a definition of sexual violence that also encompasses any non-consented sexual act within marriage (Colombia);**

**166.85 Introduce legislation to make marital rape illegal in all circumstances (Canada);**

**166.86 Decriminalize defamation and make it a civil offence in accordance with international standards (Belgium);**

**166.87 Ensure the full enjoyment of the right to freedom of expression and to peaceful assembly and revise its national legislation, inter alia the Internal Security Act and the Newspaper and Printing Presses Act, in order to eliminate media censorship and prevent self-censorship, in this regard, protect bloggers from persecution and harassment for the exercise of their human rights (Czech Republic);**

**166.88 Review media laws to align them with international human rights standards on freedom of expression (Latvia);**

**166.89 Adopt legislative measures to permit the realization of peaceful demonstrations and promote freedom of expression (Costa Rica);**

**166.90 Review existing legislation to enhance the exercise of the right to freedom of expression, association and peaceful assembly (Italy);**

**166.91 Consider the necessary legislations and policies to effectively guarantee the protection and promotion of freedoms of expression, peaceful assembly and association (Mexico);**

**166.92 Review the use of anti-defamation laws and the registration process for civil society and associations to ensure that such laws are consistent with the right to freedom of expression, association and peaceful assembly, and do not constitute a de facto ban on peaceful public demonstrations (Canada);**

**166.93 Enact a law that protects migrants, refugees and asylum seekers (Congo);**

166.94 **Adopt a comprehensive legislation that guarantees the protectioa of the rights of migrant workers (Honduras);**

166.95 **Repeal the law that deports foreign workers suffering from sexually transmitted diseases (Congo);**

166.96 **Review the nationality law to provide persons born to Singaporean mothers before 15 May 2004 an opportunity to acquire Singaporean nationality (Kenya);**

166.97 **Enact new legislation for providing early intervention and better protect vulnerable adults from abuse and harm due to neglect and self-neglect (Albania);**

166.98 **Consider enshrining in law, protection for rights for 16- to 18-year-olds, either by amending the Children and Young Persons Act or through other legislation (Jamaica);**

166.99 **Strengthen the role of the Inter-Ministerial Committee on Human Rights to allow for the adapting of human rights policies to meet the national concerns in a changing global economic and social environment (Barbados);**

166.100 **Continue to strengthen its human rights mechanisms and consider establishing a national human rights institution in line with the Paris Principles (Nepal);**

166.101 **Take steps to establish a national human rights institution in accordance with the Paris Principles (Poland); Consider establishing an independent national human rights institution in accordance with the Paris Principles (Timor-Leste); Consider to establish a national human rights institution in line with the Paris Principles (Malaysia);**

166.102 **Seriously consider establishing an independent national human rights institution with a wide mandate to protect and promote human rights, especially in cooperation with civil society (Republic of Korea);**

166.103 **Establish an independent national human rights institution for the protection and promotion of the rights of women (Uganda);**

166.104 **Establish a national human rights institution in accordance with the Paris Principles (Costa Rica);**

166.105 **Continue the progress in the human rights policies, and focus on the practices adopted in various sectors concerned with the advancement of the country such as education, health and care for the elderly (Bahrain);**

166.106 **Provide the Office for Women's Development with the necessary resources to promote gender equality in all policy areas (Fiji);**

166.107 **Adopt a National Action Plan to implement the Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights, as recommended by the Working Group on Business and Human Rights (Netherlands);**

166.108 **Take steps to carry out recommendations with regard to the implementation of commitments under the Convention on the Rights of the Child (Slovakia);**

166.109 **Continue commendable efforts to establish the principle of social harmony among the members of the community (Oman);**

**166.110 Continue to implement policies for the development of its people under the Sustainable Development Goals (Pakistan);**

**166.111 Continue its efforts to enhance religious tolerance and maintain peaceful co-existence among followers of different religions (Qatar);**

**166.112 Continue its efforts aimed at strengthening the principles of social justice, and enhance social cohesion (United Arab Emirates);**

**166.113 Further its endeavours with regard to the smooth and productive activities of the Inter-Racial and Religious Confidence Circles Steering Committees, and continue its efforts to strengthen social harmony in the country (Azerbaijan);**

**166.114 Further introduce effective measures to enhance gender equity, and to create practical facilities for persons with disabilities to effectively participate in the labour market (Viet Nam);**

**166.115 Continue taking effective policy and other measures to build a fair and inclusive society (Bhutan);**

**166.116 Aim at enhancing social cohesion through laws and policies to meet the changing political, economic and social demands of the people to safeguard social harmony (China);**

**166.117 Continue preserving social harmony, as a diverse cultural and linguistic nation, to build a fair and inclusive society (Ethiopia);**

**166.118 Continue its efforts in education, knowledge and public health, and achieve religious tolerance and social cohesion as it represents an important basis to strengthen the principles of human rights (Iraq);**

**166.119 Continue with efforts related to the enhancement of harmony between various religious and ethnical sects (Libya);**

**166.120 Continue efforts to maintain harmony among ethnic and religious groups in society (Morocco);**

**166.121 Raise the level of human rights awareness in society (Bahrain);**

**166.122 Continue its engagement with Governments and civil society organizations on initiatives that help promote and protect human rights (Philippines);**

**166.123 Carry out general awareness-raising campaigns aimed at combating discrimination in all its forms (Chile);**

**166.124 Continue with the actions of the Inter-ministerial Committee on Human Rights, which provides follow-up to human rights recommendations (Paraguay);**

**166.125 Continue its engagement with the Human Rights Council by bringing into domestic law the recommendations accepted in its first universal periodic review process (Barbados);**

**166.126 Extend a standing invitation to the Human Rights Council's Special Procedures (Poland); Extend a standing invitation to all special procedures (Honduras); Extend a standing invitation to all special mandate holders (Latvia);**

**166.127 Consider issuing a standing invitation to special procedures mandate holders (Slovenia);**

**166.128 Reinforce the effective protection of the elderly people (Tajikistan);**

**166.129 Continue to take measures to protect the rights of the elderly and persons with disabilities (Uzbekistan);**

**166.130 Deepen the legal initiatives and their enforcement aimed at ensuring a legal and de facto situation that guarantees the human rights of migrants (Peru);**

**166.131 Continue providing migrants and their families access to education, health care, and housing at par with its citizens (Philippines);**

**166.132 Continue its ongoing efforts to promote and protect economic, social and cultural rights of migrant workers in Singapore, including efforts to enhance reach out to migrant workers on their employment rights, responsibilities, and their avenues of recourse (Sri Lanka);**

**166.133 Take the necessary steps to prohibit employers from withholding their foreign workers' passports, travel documents, and work permits as well as to improve access to comprehensive and affordable health services (Thailand);**

**166.134 Improve the situation of work migrants by enabling them to easily switch employers and to have access to decent housing. The provisions of the Employment Act should also apply to foreign domestic workers (Germany);**

**166.135 Protect the legitimate rights of foreign workers in Singapore and help them get the necessary vocational training (China);**

**166.136 Continue safeguarding the well-being and rights of migrant workers in Singapore and reach out to migrant workers to ensure that they understand their employment rights and responsibilities (Cuba);**

**166.137 Strengthen measures to protect the human rights of non-citizens and migrant workers to prevent their exploitation and discrimination (Mexico);**

**166.138 Continue efforts at protecting migrant workers and members of their families from exploitation (Myanmar);**

**166.139 Adopt measures to protect the human rights of migrants, in particular foreign domestic workers through the revision of the legislation that establishes deportation in case of pregnancy or diagnostic of sexually-transmitted diseases such as HIV/AIDS (Colombia);**

**166.140 Continue to promote and protect migrants and their rights, in particular while countering terrorism (Bangladesh);**

**166.141 Continue ensuring the rights of women and girls through their empowerment and participation in society (Nicaragua);**

**166.142 Support the social integration of women in all spheres of life (Tajikistan);**

**166.143 Take further steps to improve equality between women and men (Timor-Leste);**

**166.144 Strengthen its awareness-raising programmes to more effectively address gender disparities and discrimination against women (Trinidad and Tobago);**

**166.145 Continue efforts to eliminate discrimination against women (Uzbekistan);**

**166.146 Continue its commitment to the principles of gender equality and non-discrimination and maintain the dialogue with the Committee on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (Barbados);**

**166.147 Intensify efforts to eliminate all forms of discrimination against women, among other measures, to promote their empowerment and participation in public life (Mexico);**

**166.148 Enhance efforts to promote gender equality and combat all forms of discrimination and violence against women and girls (Italy);**

**166.149 Pursue its efforts to providing women and children with all their rights (Kuwait);**

**166.150 Allow single mothers to enjoy the same benefits as married mothers (Haiti);**

**166.151 Assess benefits and social support for single, unwed mothers, to ensure that the current system does not foster multi-generational social exclusion (Jamaica);**

**166.152 Continue to take measures to combat racial discrimination (Russian Federation);**

**166.153 Promote and protect the rights of indigenous peoples, peasants and other people working in rural areas (Plurinational State of Bolivia);**

**166.154 Remove discriminatory media guidelines to provide a more balanced representation of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons (Canada);**

**166.155 Continue to promote awareness programmes on HIV/AIDS, and enhance cooperation with civil society to address the stigma faced by persons with HIV/AIDS (Malaysia);**

**166.156 Re-establish the moratorium on executions with a view to its abolition (Spain); Re-establish a moratorium on executions with a view to the complete abolition of the death penalty (Netherlands); Re-establish a moratorium with a view to abolishing the death penalty (Sierra Leone); Re-establish a moratorium on executions with a view of abolishing the death penalty (Slovenia); Re-establish a moratorium on executions in line with General Assembly resolutions and with a view to abolishing the death penalty completely (Finland); Re-establish a moratorium on executions with a view to abolishing the death penalty (Holy See); Re-establish a moratorium on executions with a view to a complete abolition of the death penalty (Honduras);**

**166.157 Re-establish a moratorium on executions, with a view to the complete abolition of the death penalty, and prohibit the imposition of the death penalty against persons with mental and intellectual disabilities (South Africa); Prohibit the execution of persons with mental and intellectual disabilities (Spain);**

**166.158 Establish a moratorium on executions with a view to abolishing the death penalty (Norway); Establish a moratorium on executions with a view to formally abolishing the death penalty (Portugal); Establish a moratorium on the death penalty (Switzerland); Establish a moratorium on executions, with a view to abolishing the death penalty (France); Establish a moratorium of capital executions with a view to fully abolish the death penalty (Italy);**

**Establish as soon as possible a moratorium on the death penalty with a view to its complete abolition (Mexico);**

**166.159 Enhance its efforts to abolish the death penalty (Panama);**

**166.160 Consider establishing a formal moratorium on executions of those sentenced to death (Argentina);**

**166.161 Eliminate the mandatory character of the death penalty with a view to abolishing capital punishment altogether. In the meantime, establish a moratorium on executions (Germany);**

**166.162 Advance towards the definitive abolition of the death penalty, adopting during this process a general moratorium on its application (Chile);**

**166.163 Take further action so as to completely abolish the death penalty after lifting in 2014 its de facto moratorium imposed in 2011 (Greece);**

**166.164 Introduce further measures to restrict the use of the death penalty and consider the re-establishment of the moratorium on executions as first steps towards eventual abolition of the death penalty (Ireland);**

**166.165 Consider taking steps to eliminate all mandatory death penalty sentences, and impose a moratorium on the application of the death penalty with the view of abolishing it (Namibia);**

**166.166 Modify domestic law with a view to abolishing the mandatory death penalty and, during this process, establish a general moratorium on already existing death sentences (Uruguay);**

**166.167 Abolish the death penalty (Paraguay);**

**166.168 Go further and abolish the death penalty in practice and in law (New Zealand);**

**166.169 Eliminate the mandatory character of caning as a first step with a view to abolishing this practice altogether (Germany);**

**166.170 Put an end to the practice of corporal punishment (France);**

**166.171 Cease the use of caning as a form of punishment (New Zealand);**

**166.172 Abolish the punishment of caning, particularly those who have exceeded the period stated in the Visa or the residency (Lebanon);**

**166.173 Ensure that nobody can be detained without trial and revise relevant laws (ISA, CLTPA, MSA, UPA) accordingly (Germany);**

**166.174 Continue efforts to protect children against violence (Algeria);**

**166.175 Take additional measures to protect child victims of violence (Kyrgyzstan);**

**166.176 Raise the minimum age to 18 of young people eager to join the army (Haiti);**

**166.177 Harmonize the definition of the child in domestic law and put an end to the voluntary recruitment of minors into the army (Belgium);**

**166.178 Continue to exert efforts to combat trafficking in persons through the implementation of the Prevention of Human Trafficking Act in accordance with its obligations under the Palermo Protocol (Qatar);**

**166.179 Take adequate measures to prevent trafficking in women and children and to strengthen the protection of victims of human trafficking (Serbia);**

**166.180 Consolidate the progress already made in the fight against human trafficking by guaranteeing the prosecution and punishment of the perpetrators and the protection and rehabilitation of victims (Spain);**

**166.181 Continue efforts to combat human trafficking and to protect victims of such crimes, especially women and children (Sri Lanka);**

**166.182 Ensure proper investigation, prosecution and adequate sanctions in all cases of human trafficking, including through the training of relevant personnel (Turkey);**

**166.183 Continue to develop strategies to promote public awareness of the issue of trafficking in persons (Bahamas);**

**166.184 Continue enhancing its efforts to combat trafficking in persons, and protecting the victims (Cuba);**

**166.185 Further strengthen its measures to combat all forms of trafficking in women and children and protecting and rehabilitating its victims (Egypt);**

**166.186 Allocate adequate resources to train the relevant authorities to ensure the effective implementation of the Prevention of Human Trafficking Act (Fiji);**

**166.187 Continue its efforts to guarantee the protection and rehabilitation of the victims of trafficking in persons, especially for women and children (Holy See);**

**166.188 Take measures in the legislative sphere and policy measure to strengthen mechanisms for combating trafficking (Honduras);**

**166.189 Strengthen its efforts for protecting victims of trafficking in persons and organize awareness-raising programmes in favour of public on issues related to combating human trafficking (Islamic Republic of Iran);**

**166.190 Continue combating trafficking in persons, and provide protection to its victims (Lebanon);**

**166.191 Preserve its criminal justice system to reinforce rule of law (Bangladesh);**

**166.192 Take appropriate measures to establish equal choice of jurisdiction between Sharia courts and family courts (Argentina);**

**166.193 Adapt its legislation to ensure that all arrested and detained persons can swiftly appear before a judge and in conformity with international law (Switzerland);**

**166.194 Replace the Internal Security Act and the Criminal Law (Temporary Provisions) Act with laws that mandate that an accused person has a trial in court (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland);**

**166.195 Adopt legislation to ensure that all cases of arrest and detention without warrant, also those under the Internal Security Act, are subject to speedy, independent and regular judicial review (Austria);**

**166.196 Harmonize domestic law regarding the minimum age of criminal responsibility, and raise it (Uruguay);**

**166.197 Maintain its effective protection for the family as the natural and fundamental unit of the society (Egypt);**

**166.198 Continue improving all the conditions for worship, and strengthen awareness and dissemination of the values of tolerance and peace (United Arab Emirates);**

**166.199 Preserve its social harmony through retaining its existing legal provisions that allow various religious populations to live and practice their religion without stigma (Bangladesh);**

**166.200 End the practice of using defamation lawsuits and other legal and administrative actions to censor, fine, and imprison individuals for speaking or writing on political issues, and remove all discriminatory media guidelines (United States of America);**

**166.201 Ensure freedom of assembly and association, freedom of opinion and expression, including on the Internet, and protect freedom of the press (France);**

**166.202 Ensure that freedom of opinion and expression are encouraged and protected, including for individuals and organizations communicating via online public platforms (New Zealand);**

**166.203 Consider alternative, effective interventions for persons who violate national laws or norms regarding religious or cultural sensibilities through publication or posting of offensive material (Jamaica);**

**166.204 Take appropriate measures to ease restrictions on freedom of expression and freedom of the media (Japan);**

**166.205 Reform the regime of defamation offences, which has a chilling effect on freedom of expression (France);**

**166.206 That relevant laws, including the Public Order Act and the Public Entertainment and Meeting Act not be invoked to curtail the right to freedom of peaceful assembly, including that of civil society (Ireland);**

**166.207 Establish an independent electoral commission with a mandate to determine constituency boundaries and monitor election fundraising and campaigning (United States of America);**

**166.208 Continue expanding the participation of women in the national public life (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela);**

**166.209 Strengthen efforts to promote women's participation in public life, particularly at the higher corporate levels (Bahamas);**

**166.210 Encourage women's political participation and increase representation of women in decision-making (Maldives);**

**166.211 Continue its efforts so as to realize the right to work, including through technical and vocational education and training (Egypt);**

**166.212 Initiate a national dialogue on a universal minimum wage (Haiti);**

**166.213 Include domestic work among the fields covered by the Employment Act, which would significantly improve the situation of many migrant workers (Austria);**

**166.214 Continue increasing the benefits of its social services for the population to obtain a greater efficiency of its excellent social welfare system (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela);**

**166.215 Continue its ongoing efforts and commitment to uphold the lives of its people through the provision of best education, housing and medical care (Cambodia);**

**166.216 Continue implementing its social policies and programmes with a view to strengthening social harmony, in particular to help the elderly and the low-income citizens (Cambodia);**

**166.217 Allocate sufficient funds and undertake effective measures to provide adequate assistance to the elderly people (Viet Nam);**

**166.218 Accelerate the building of more general and community hospitals and clinics under the Healthcare 2020 Master plan (Zimbabwe);**

**166.219 Explore the expansion of health and safety regulations to cover non-medical practitioners and conduct regular monitoring of their activities (Jamaica);**

**166.220 Improve access to education and health-care services of vulnerable people, including women and children from low and middle income families (Lao People's Democratic Republic);**

**166.221 Continue to provide the subsidies and financial support through its MediShield Life Policy for all its citizens and permanent residents, especially the elderly and needy (Brunei Darussalam);**

**166.222 Continue to develop inclusive education and strengthen life-long education (Belarus);**

**166.223 Take further steps to ensure its people, especially children, will continue to enjoy access to affordable education (Brunei Darussalam);**

**166.224 Continue developing programmes aimed at providing equal access to quality education for vulnerable groups, with a special emphasis on the inclusion of persons with disabilities and children under poverty conditions guaranteeing gender equality (Chile);**

**166.225 Adopt further measures to ensure the full enjoyment of rights of persons with disabilities, particularly in education and access to services (Israel);**

**166.226 Continue the efforts aimed at providing more opportunities to persons with disabilities and enabling them to become an integral part of the society (Oman);**

**166.227 Continue its efforts to improve health care, education and care provided for persons with disabilities (Saudi Arabia);**

**166.228 Ensure that the Compulsory Education Act provides for children with disabilities (Uganda);**

**166.229 Continue its strive to build an inclusive society where persons with disabilities are given every opportunity to become integral and contributing members (Islamic Republic of Iran);**

**166.230 Continue to ensure care services and equal access of employment opportunities for persons with disabilities (Lao People's Democratic Republic);**

**166.231 Continue and strengthen efforts to integrate children with disabilities to mainstream education (Maldives);**

**166.232 Take appropriate measures to ensure that mandatory basic education includes children with disabilities (Kuwait);**

**166.233 Continue to adopt measures to provide for adequate treatment to refugees, in particular through the adoption of procedures or protection mechanisms to refugee claimants, especially non-accompanied boys, girls and adolescents (Colombia);**

**166.234 Enact laws covering the right of children to acquire nationality, in particular those born in Singapore who cannot obtain another nationality (Panama);**

**166.235 Raise awareness on the impact of climate change (Haiti);**

**166.236 Intensify fighting radicalization and terrorism at its early stage to sustain the enjoyment of human rights and basic freedoms of all Singaporeans (Ethiopia).**

**167. All conclusions and/or recommendations contained in the present report reflect the position of the submitting State(s) and/or the State under review. They should not be construed as endorsed by the Working Group as a whole.**

# Annex

## Composition of the delegation

The delegation of Singapore was headed by Ambassador-at-Large Chan Heng Chee, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and composed of the following members:

- Mr. Foo Kok Jwee, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary, Permanent Representative, Permanent Mission of Singapore to the United Nations;
- Ms. Vanessa Chan, Director-General, International Organisations Directorate, Ministry of Foreign Affairs;
- Ms. Thian Yee Sze, Director-General, Legal Group, Ministry of Law;
- Mr. Alvin Lim, Divisional Director, Workplace Policy and Strategy Division, Ministry of Manpower;
- Mr. Lim Shung Yar, Director, Community Relations and Engagement Division, Ministry of Culture, Community and Youth;
- Ms. Janice Tan, Director, International Relations, International Cooperation & Partnerships Division, Ministry of Home Affairs;
- Ms. Gwenda Fong, Director, Successful Ageing, Ageing Planning Office, Ministry of Health;
- Ms. Ang Bee Lian, Director, Social Welfare, Ministry of Social and Family Development;
- Ms. Chetra Sinnathamby, Director, Content & Standards (Films, Video Games & Arts), Media Development Authority;
- Ms. Diane Tan, Acting Director, International Legal, Ministry of Law;
- Mr. Steven Pang, Deputy Director-General, International Organisations Directorate, Ministry of Foreign Affairs;
- Mr. Jonathan Han, Deputy Permanent Representative, Permanent Mission of Singapore to the United Nations;
- Mr. Jason Tan, Counsellor (Legal), Permanent Mission of Singapore to the United Nations;
- Mr Melvin Yeo Tsin Yaw, Senior Deputy Director-Designate, Community Relations, Ministry of Culture, Community and Youth;
- Ms. Sarala Subramaniam, Deputy Senior State Counsel, International Affairs Division, Attorney-General's Chambers;
- Mr. Ni De' En, Deputy Director, NS Policy, Ministry of Defence;
- Ms Sharifah Farah Binte Syed Mahamood Aljunied, Deputy Director, Curriculum and Youth Development, Islamic Religious Council of Singapore (MUIS);
- Mr. Gerard Vinluan, Deputy Director, Communications and International Relations Division, Ministry of Social and Family Development;
- Ms. Yeo Wen Qing, Deputy Director, International Cooperation, Public Health Group, Ministry of Health;

- Ms. Linda Lee, Senior Assistant Director, Communications and International Relations Division, Ministry of Social and Family Development;
- Ms. Joy Boo Jia Wen, First Secretary, Permanent Mission of Singapore to the United Nations;
- Ms. Delphia Lim, Assistant Director, International Legal, Ministry of Law;
- Ms. Jasmine Pang Xueqin, Senior Manager, Community Relations, Ministry of Culture, Community and Youth;
- Ms. Ong Rui Lin, Senior Manager, Workplace Policy and Strategy Division, Ministry of Manpower;
- Ms. Kristy Lim, Senior Manager, International Cooperation & Partnerships Division, Ministry of Home Affairs;
- Ms. Arvinder Kaur, Assistant Manager, Community Relations, Ministry of Culture, Community and Youth;
- Ms. Ann-Margaret Mathew, Desk Officer, International Organisations Directorate, Ministry of Foreign Affairs;
- Ms. Grace Zhu Manyun, Desk Officer, International Organisations Directorate, Ministry of Foreign Affairs;
- Mr. Bryan Lim, Country Officer, Ministry of Foreign Affairs.